# Pope said to accept lraqi invitation

BAGHDAD (R) - Pope John Paul has accepted an invitation by the Iraqi government to visit Iraq, the spiritual leader of Iraq's one million Christians said on Saturday. The head of the Roman Catholic Church would be able to "see the suffering of the Iraqi people," Chaldean Patriarch Rufael Bedaweed told a news conference, referring to the impact of the United Nations trade embargo on Iraq. No date has been set for the papal tour, he added. Officials at the Vatican were pot immediately available to comment. The Pope is due to visit Lebanon in May. Christian leaders of Middle East churches visiting Iraq denounced the trade sanctions which were imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "We have seen the suffering and lived with it for several days," they said in a joint statement. "It is a flagrant aggression against human rights... we persistently call for a lifting of the embargo... regardless of political differences between governments," the statement said. The patriarchs arrived in Iraq on Monday. Michael Sabbah of Jerusalem read the statement which was also attended by patriarchs of Egypt, the Armenians and the Maronites.



#### Arafat doubts Israel wants peace

BONN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser-Arafat was quoted on Saturday as saying he doubted Israel's, commitment to the Sept. 13 peace agreement for limited Palestinian. autonomy in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. "It looks as though they do not want peace," Mr. Arafat told the German news magazine Der Spiegel, referring to Israel's hesitation to withdraw from those areas. Israeli troops should havee pulled out of Gaza and Jericho in December under the Sept. 13 deal. But security disputes have delayed the withdrawal and more doubts have been raised about the future of the accord since an Israeli extremist killed about 60 Muslims as they prayed at a Hebron mosque on Feb. 25. Mr. Arafat said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was stalling instead of reacting to the Hebron massacre by evacuating extremist Jewish settlers from Gaza and the West Bank. In excerpts from the interview released ahead of publication on Monday, Mr. Arafat said the Hebron-killing had boosted the position of Palestinian extremists in the

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# Palestinians fight pitched battles with Israeli troops

#### Resistance goes hand-in-hand with talks, leaders say

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Young Palesti-nians and Israeli troops fought pitched battles in Jerusalem Saturday after resistance hero Salim Zerai, who served 23 years in prison, exhorted Palestinians to take up the gun again at a raily marking the Hebron mosque massacre.

There were few casualties in the fighting that swirled through the Arab sector, with the protesters hurling rocks and bottles and security forces firing rubber bullets and teargas in streets around the old walled city.

But the clashes and the rhetoric underlined how the shock waves from the Feb. 25 slaughter continue to reverberate around the Holy Land. sharpening old hatreds and

jeopardising the Middle East

peace process.
Israeli police fired rubber bullets at dozens of Palestinian youths throwing stones in Arab East Jerusalem, police and witnesses said.

Hospital sources said 20 Palestinian youths were admitted with wounds. Palestinian witnesses said two of them were seriously wounded.

Arab sources said troops and Palestinians also clashed in Hebron and the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

A Reuter photographer said several Palestinians and an international photo journalist were wounded lightly in the clashes which erupted on Salaeddin street, near the Old

Á police spokesman said pa-

ramilitary border police used rubber bullets to "disperse the vouths" and arrested two.

"The settlers and the occupation don't know anything but the language of bul-lets," Mr. Zerai told a 300-' Mr. Zerai told a 300strong crowd fired up by tapes of emotional songs about returning refugees by the Lebanese diva Fairouz.

"Israel, like all previous occupations of Palestine, can only be driven out by force," Mr. Zerai said.

As the crowd chanted "until victory," Mr. Zerai said: "We have to respond to the massacre... and return to the in-

"Negotiations must continue, but the struggle must continue by every means possi-

Speaker after speaker linked the Hebron slayings to earlier massacres of Arabs — Deir Yassin in 1948, in which 260 were killed by Israelis, Kufr Qassem in 1956, with 43 slain, and the 1982 Sabra and Shatilla bloodbath in Beirut when as many as 800 unarmed people were slaughtered by Israelibacked Lebanese gunmen. Mr. Zerai, a Palestinian

hero, served 23 years in prison for an abortive 1970 seaborne raid on Israel. He was freed following the Sept. 13 peace accord between Israel and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

His fiery exhortations followed similar calls for vengeance by Palestinian fac-

(Continued on page 5)

# arrest him during clashes in Arab East Jerusalem on Saturday Israel urges resumption of talks;

## Darawshe, delegation head for Syria today

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Fifty Israeli Arabs will leave for Syria Sunday, on an unprecedented visit, to convey their condolences to President Hafez Al Assad on the death of his son Bassel in January, their leader said on Saturday.

"It is a chance to meet with President Assad in order to show our respect for him and the Syrian people," Abdul Wahab Darawshe, leader of the Arab Democratic Party in the Israeli parliament, told Reuters.

It is the first time Syria has allowed a delegation of Israeli Arabs to visit Damascus.

Mr. Darawshe said the group would travel to Syria via Cairo and hoped to meet Mr. Assad on Monday. He said it would comprise

prominent figures in the Israeli Arab community including another member of parliament, local council heads, intellectuals and journalists.

A government-run Syrian newspaper, meanwhile, denounced the promulgation of reported death threats against Syria's small Jewish community as an Israeli campaign to divert attention from the grisly

Hebron massacre. Israel, "by circulating such illusions, is trying to transfer the worldwide denunciation for what it has perpetrated in the Ibrahimi Mosque into a new direction," the daily Tishrin said in a front-page editorial.

"Israeli claims spring from continuous Israeli attempts to raise doubts about the situation in Syria," Tishrin said.
"By doing this, Israel will reap nothing but failure and will never be able to acquit itself of the crimes it commits daily against Arab citizens and holy places."

Syria, along with Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). suspended peace talks with Israel after the Feb. 25 bloodshed when a Jewish settler opened fire on praying Muslims and killed at least 60 people.

Tishrin dismissed the reported death threats as "mere lies" and said that Syria's Jews, who number fewer than 1,000, were fully integrated, enjoyed the same rights as other Syrian citizens and were living peace-

On Thursday, Syria's senior Jewish cleric said Syrian authorities had intensified security to protect the country's few Jews following threats their blood would begin spilling March 13 in revenge for the massacre. (see page 2)

# Yemenis protest against leadership feud

SANAA (R) — Yemenis, including members of the armed forces, held protests in universities in Sanaa and Aden on Saturday to protest against the dangers of the country splitting in two because of factional bickering, witnesses said. The strikes were called by

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the Yemeni Organisation for Human Freedoms and Civil Rights, a non-government organisation.
Several hundred people took part, including army officers,

university professors, lawyers. workers, engineers, journalists and tribal leaders. It was not clear how many

members of the army attended the sit-in protests.

Organisers said the protests were aimed at protecting the unity of Yemen, forged between north and south in 1990. and implementing a reconciliation accord which provides for political, economic, military

and administrative reforms. The protests staged in universities in the capital Sanaa

and Aden, capital of the former south, followed clashes between units of the armed forces which have not fully merged yet.

Political leaders of both sides have accused each other of not implementing the reconciliation accord which is aimed at ending the seven-month crisis threatening to redivide Ye-

Another sit-in is planned on Sunday in Taiz, a northern province close to the former border between North and mth Yemen, the organisation said.

Protesters said in statements on Saturday that their action was being carried out under the slogans of "prohibit fighting" and the "the homeland is in danger."

Only hours after the signing of an accord in Jordan last month by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his estranged deputy Ali Salem Al Beidh. clashes erupted between rival army units in the north and

A joint military committee made up of Yemeni, Jordanian and Omani officers and the U.S. and French military attaches in Sanaa has been set up to disengage the troops and return them to their bases.

Mr. Saleh, addressing worshippers after Friday prayers in Sanaa, said: "We will do our utmost to contain the crisis. Let our people be assured we will not allow fighting or the shedding of blood for the sake

Mr. Saleh, quoted by the official SABA news agency, added: "Nobody has the right to impose his own guardianship on the unity of the people, whether he is an individual, party or group, there is no giving up of unity, whatever

Mr. Beidh, in a recorded speech to army and security commanders in Aden, broadcast by Aden Television, said Mr. Saleh had evaded implementing the Amman accord, which calls for the arrest of people suspected of political killings.

"We are committed to the accord and insist on implementing the first clause which is the arrest of criminals," Mr. Beidh said. His Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) says 154 of its members have been killed since the two Yemens united.

Mr. Beidh quoted Mr. Saleh as saying during a private meeting in Amman that "he cannot take measures a the criminals because this will cause him problems in Sanaa.' Mr. Beidh said dozens of

people had been killed in clashes in the southern province of Abyan and to the north of Sanaa. He blamed the violence on

forces from the north but he urged units from the two rival armies, still divided, not to raise their weapons against each other. .

# Popoulias in Syria

DAMASCUS "(Agencies)' — Greek Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias arrived Saturday as part of a fresh European effort to revive Middle East wake of last Monday's Hebron massacre.

Mr. Papoulias, who came from Cairo on the last leg of a Middle East tour that also took him to Tunisia, Jordan and Israel, told reporters he would discuss with Syrian officials "matters of common interest." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Papoulias's visit came fews after Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) walked out of the peace talks in Washington in protest against the Hebron massacre. He earlier told reporters that

an international force to protect the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was among the ideas he discussed with Israeli officials. Mr. Papoulias began talks

with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa late Saturday and was expected to meet with other officials Sunday. Mr. Papoulias met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in

Cairo earlier Saturday but gave no sign of progress in their attempt to save the Middle East talks
After 90 minutes with Mr. Mubarak, Mr. Papoulias told reporters: "We discussed the

possibilities of continuing the

peace process after the bloody

the massacre and shouting

defenders was Shimon Peres,

Israel's foreign minister and

its point man in the peace

negotiations, who shouted

down right-wing legislators in the Knesset last Wednesday.

"Attack Arafat all you

want," Mr. Peres said. "I sat

days and nights across from

bim. ... I want Arafat to be a

partner who can lead his peo-

ple to peace. We need to help

Mr. Peres, a prime minis-

ter in the era when Israeli

governments routinely label-

led Mr. Arafat a terrorist,

blasted Israelis who express-

ed solidarity with Baruch

Goldstein, killer of the

praying Palestinians in Heb-

this partner."

One of his most fervent

"Death to the traitors."

Hebron incident."

violence over the Hebron massacre, appealed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation PLO) on Saturday to reopen direct talks on Palestinian selfrule in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Israel, after a week of non-stop

Uri Savir, foreign ministry director-general, said the Hebron killings were "a serious blow to the peace process" but urged the PLO to accept an invitation from the United States to restart peace talks with Israel in Washington.

The PLO halted talks with Israel on implementing their September declaration of principles after the Hebron massacre.

"We must again break the wall of suspicion. We have to again talk directly on tracks acceptable to both sides because part of the negotiations is creating new mutual trust," Mr. Savir, who participated in negotiations with the PLO since their secret start in Oslo last year, told Israel Radio.

Palestinian leaders said Saturday the PLO should insist on modifying its self-rule deal with Israel so that some Jewish settlements — "timebombs" in the occupied territories were evacuated. Palestinian leader Faisal Al

Husseini said the Hebron massacre had changed the situation.

"What was acceptable in Oslo and Cairo is not accept-

TEL AVIV (Agencies) - able now. It is high time that the idea, Mr. Savir said: the world deals with Palestinian security, settlements are time bombs," he told a rally at the Palestinian National Theatre in Arab East Jeru-

Palestinians want changes in deal

salem. "Before it is too late, we should modify the Oslo agreement in order to make the transfer period a success,' Ghassan Khatib told Reuters.

Israel and the PLO agreed in the Sept. 13 deal to allow some 120,000 Jews in 140 settlements to remain in place during the interim five-year period of limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Mr. Khatib, a former Palestinian negotiator, said settlements within highly populated Palestinian areas, including the Jewish enclave in Hebron and the settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip, should be

evacuated immediately. "This is to avoid any clashes between the armed settlers and armed Palestinians such as the Palestinian police force in the near future," said Mr. Khatib, director of the Jerusalem Media and Communications

Centre. PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said in Washington after talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the United Nations was near agreement, with U.S. backing, on a proposal for an armed international presence in the

Asked for his response to

"When the negotiations be-

gin we'll be able to discuss security issues and issues of temporary international civilian presence on the basis of the (Sept. 13) DoP (Declaration of Principles).

"Real change will not come about because of international presence, in the final analysis, security is dependent on the way both these peoples will live together."

Dr. Shaath, speaking to reporters in Washington, said : there was a "real effort (being made) to come out with a (U.N.) Security Council re-solution today" condemning the Hebron massacre.

Mr. Christopher posed for pictures with Mr. Shaath ahead of their meeting but his aides would not allow reporters to be present and ask questions.

Dr. Shaath, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, came to Washington to discuss Palestinian demands for resuming peace talks with Israel that were jeopardised by the Hebron massacre and Palestinian rage in its after-

He told reporters: "The U.N. resolution is a resolution that states the requirements for the Palestinian people that can be satisfied by the Security Council, including the international presence in the occupied territories that would provide security for the Palestinian

(Continued on page 5)

## Afrikaners reject taking part in elections

PRETORIA (AP) - An umbrella group of pro-apartheid whites on Saturday rejected taking part in the nation's first all-race election, even though one of its leaders registered for the vote. A meeting of the self-

declared parliament of the Afrikaner Volksfront voted against participating in the April 26-28 vote, and its leader said the group would work against the election. "If we take part in the elec-

tion, we would just be endorsing its legitimacy," Ferdi Hartzenberg said in announcing the decision to the so-called "Boer parliament" of about 100 rightwing white leaders. "We would just be endorsing the oppression of our people and that would be unacceptable." Retired army General Con-

stand Viljoen, another Afrikaner Volksfront leader who registered for the election 20 minutes before the deadline expired Friday night (see page 8), said he accepted the deci-

"This is the wish of the people," he said, adding the group would simply fail to submit a list of candidates by the Wednesday deadline, which would cause its registration to

The Afrikaner Volksfront had vehemently opposed the election, and Viljoen's surprise registration sparked specula-tion of a split and among the various pro-apartheid white groups it represents.

day's decision gave little in-

#### White House counsel resigns over Whitewater-linked criticism WASHINGTON (AP) — White House Counsel Bernard lawyer, even one acting as was among White House aides

Nussbaum submitted his resignation Saturday, bowing to criticism of his handling of questions related to the Whitewater land deal. His resignation is effective April 5.

"I believe I can best serve you by returning to private life," Mr. Nussbaum said in a letter to President Bill Clinton. He insisted he had conducted himself "in an absolutely legal and ethical manner."

Mr. Nussbaum, 57, said he had made his decision "as a result of controversy generated by those who do not understand, nor wish to understand the role and obligations of a

By Salah Nasrawi

The Associated Press

TUNIS - Yasser Arafat's

world turned upside down

last week: The Israeli foreign

minister praised him to Jews

while Palestinians who once

bonoured him as the father of

their not-yet nation burned

The West Bank massacre

of Palestinian men and boys

by a Jewish settler in a mos-

que in Hebron further shrank

support for the leadership of

the Palestine Liberation

Tunis, exile home of the

PLO, as erstwhile Arafat

loyalists urged immediate

withdrawal from the peace

Even staff members of the

PLO political department -

in a fax to Mr. Arafat with

copies to foreign news agen-

Fax machines hummed in

Organisation (PLO).

talks with Israel.

him in effigy.

White House counsel."

Mr. Clinton, in a letter of reply that took indirect note of the controversy surrounding Mr. Nussbaum, said be accepted the resignation "with

best a man can give is his living spirit to a service that is not easy," Mr. Clinton wrote.

deep regret."
"It has been said that the

"And we have worked together in Washington at a time when serving is hard."

Mr. Nussbaum said his resignation would take effect

cies - advocated a return to

armed struggle, "our only

tion fax, three Palestinian in-

tellectuals whose writings are

well-known to Arab readers

called Hebron "a testimonial

of death for Arafat's recogni-

"We demand that those

who grow illusions stop im-

planting them in the minds of

our people," said Ahmad Dahbour, Rashed Abu Sha-

Mr. Arafat's office over-

flowed with PLO leaders con-

ferring on a response to the

Rhetorical sniping came from inside and outside Mr.

"Arafat is just clinging to a

very thin rope, and soon we

will see him sinking in the

mud," said a spokesman for

Hamas, a group that poses

Feb. 25 massacre.

Arafat's coterie.

war and Tawfiq Fayadh.

tion of Israel."

In another multidestina-

and inevitable option."

who met privately last fall with treasury officials to discuss the federal inquiry into a failed Arkansas savings and loan with ties to the president and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (see page 8).

Mr. Clinton said the meet-

ings never should have occurred and was said to be particularly upset with Mr. Nussbaum. He passed up repeated opportunities to come to the defense of his counsel,

The exchange of letters was released at midday Saturday, a day after Mr. Nussbaum told

#### His announcement capped a Mr. Clinton in a private Oval week in which it had been Office meeting that he would revealed that Mr. Nussbaum

Hebron mosque massacre turns Arafat's world upside down the biggest challenge to the PLO claim of leadership in the Israeli-occupied territor-

> "He is in the weakest position ever because this time he is challenging the will of his own people, who are becoming disenchanted with his policies of making peace with the Zionists," the Hamas spokesman, Ibrahim

> Ghosheh, said in Amman. Discontent spread within the PLO's inner circles in

> "Arafat is finished and his days are numbered," said a senior official who was one of Mr. Arafat's closest aides for the past decade. Like many PLO men reassessing their futures, he spoke on condition of anonymity.

Goldstein, Mr. Peres de-PLO insiders said the PLO chairman was stunned by clared, was "a Nazi" perhaps televised scenes of Palestithe most pejorative label a can pin on another nians burning his effigy after

Jew in a country built on memories of Adolf Hitler.

Mr. Arafat, in a flurry of interviews with foreign journalists last week, sometimes sounded like a man betrayed. Speaking to an Associated Press reporter two days after the Hebron killings, he re-

turn to Tunis after the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace plan in Washington on Sept. 13. Last fall, Mr. Arafat had declared he had "a friend in the White House." That proud proclamation has been replaced by a question:

flected on his triumphal re-

Where is President Clinton when we need him? It was "regrettable," Mr. Arafat said, that the United States did not pressure Israel to make concessions after Hebron, such as accepting international observers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as Israel prepares to return the

lands to Palestinian rule.

On Thursday, the Spanish newspaper El Pais published an interview in which it asked Mr. Arafat who was in the more difficult position after the Hebron massacre, himself or Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister.

Mr. Arafat said he was, "because I fight for peace. and up to now there is no peace. Rabin manoeuvres and does not work for peace. So I'm the one who is paying the price for peace, and I'm paying too high a price."

In an effort to forge a PLO response to the Hebron massacre, Mr. Arafat called a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee Feb. 27.

Only seven of the 12 remaining members turned up. Five refused to attend because, they said, Mr. Arafat would do as he wanted whatever the committee decided. Six other members of the

committee already had left because of this highhandedness or because they rejected the peace agreement. The PLO bureaucracy in

Tunis is down to about 1,000 people from 10,000 five years ago. Many who remain talk of leaving when their children's school year ends in A former senior official:

Bilal Al Hassan, wrote last month in the London newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat that PLO officials and bureaucrats peeling away at the rate of about 15 a week. Most seek asylum in Norway or the Netherlands, said Mr. Hassan, who now lives in Paris.

He said the PLO, months behind in meeting many payrolls, provides those departing with one-way plane tickets to Europe.

#### But his response to Satur-(Continued on page 5)

# Mogadishu gunmen attack Egyptian, Italian troops

MOGADISHU (Agencies) -Somali gunmen firing rocketpropelled grenades and one mortar round staged a series of overnight attacks on Egyptian and Pakistani peacekeeping troops in South Mogadishu.

U.N. military spokesman Major Christopher Budge said one Pakistani soldier suffered a, minor leg wound from mortar shrapnel and one Somali was wounded in the attacks late Friday and early Saturday.

An American soldier who could hear the fighting from his position said hundreds of rounds were exchanged in fighting around an Egyptian strong point that flared and waned for almost four hours.

Maj. Budge said neither the United Nations nor the Egyptians knew the motive for the seemingly organised attacks. He said they also did not know if the same groups attacked both the Pakistanis and the Egyptians.

The attacks come at a time of an anti-Egypt campaign on the streets of south Mogadishu. General Mohammad Family Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) have portraved rival worlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad's ongoing talks in Cairo as an Egyptian attempt to sabotage Gen. Aideed's reconciliation efforts in Narrobi. Alliance (SNA) have portrayed rival warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad's ongoing talks in Cairo as an Egyptian attempt to sabotage Gen. Aideed's re-

conciliation efforts in Nairobi. Leaflets accusing the Egyptians of trying to colonise Somalia have been circulated in recent days in south Mogadishu, which is controlled by Gen. Aideed's SNA militia. Maj. Budge said the U.N. had no indication other than

SANAA (AP) — Western oil-

men are coming under attack

by heavily armed raiders they

believe are seeking to force

them to abandon operations

that are vital to Yemen's eco-

teans, Canadians and French-

men — are rejuctant to talk

publicly about the attacks. But

several told The Associated

Press they believe the raids are

part of a systematic campaign

of intimidation, possibly orga-

France's Liberation daily re-

ported in October that Presi-

dent François Mitterrand was

deeply concerned about the

attacks on French oilmen "by

Yemeni tribesmen allied with

The Saudis have been at

olds with the Yemenis for

deendes. That friction intensi-

fied in 1990, when Yemen re-

fused to support the U.S.-led

conlition against fraq for in-

in the past armed Yemeni

tribes along the poorly de-

fined, long-disputed border.

But officials contacted by the

AP in Saudi Arabia expressed

corprise at any suggestion that

their country was involved in

the attacks. They spoke only

The collapse of Yemen's oil

industry would devastate the

country's economy and likely

sound the death knell of the

increasingly fractious May

1990 merger between con-

servative, tribal North Yemen

Current production is

The Hunt-Yemen Oil Co., a

around 335,000 barrels a day

and is expected to hit 800,000

and the socialist South.

in the next few years.

on condition of anonymity.

The Saudi government has

Saedi Arabia."

vacting Kuwait.

nised from outside Yemen.

The oilmen — mainly Amer-

nomic development.

the location of the attacks in south Mogadishu that any particular group might be behind the raids.

He said the attacks began with a mortar round that wounded the Pakistani soldier at about 11 p.m. (2000 GMT). The Pakistani position is near the Egyptian strong point.

About a half hour later, Maj. Budge said two pickup trucks loaded with armed Somalis opened fire on the Egyptian strong point close to the intersection of the Oct. 21 and Medina roads.

Somalis attacked the Egyptian position again at about midnight (2100 GMT) with small arms, homemade grenades and three rocket-prop-elled grenades, said Maj.

An hour later, Somali gunmen fired on the position again with small arms. The fighting continued off and on until about 3 a.m. (0000 GMT), when Somali gunmen got to within 100 metres) of the position, Maj. Budge said one Somali was wound d in the last firefight, but was recovered and taken away by a group of unarmed Somalis.

Italian embassy attacked

Up to 30 Somali gunmen attacked the Italian embassy in north Mogadishu on Friday and soldiers inside killed at least one Somali when they returned fire, military officials

The Italians, scheduled to pull out their troops along with other Western peacekeepers before the end of March and evacuate their embassy, drove off two assaults by the gunmen who quickly vanished when U.S. and Italian helicopters took to the skies.

Total have been the main

targets of the oilfield attacks.

They are among some 20 fore-

ign oil companies operating in

Yemen, where Hunt disco-

Hunt's Yemen general man-

vered oil 10 years ago.

Near the southern Somali port of Kismayu, rival clan militias skirmished while fighters allied to Gen. Aideed closed in the contested area, U.N. military officials said.

"Because we are withdrawing, our soldiers are on a high state of readiness and could deal with the attack," Italian Lieutenant-Colonel Gianfranco Scalas said of the embassy

Col. Scalas, who said a second Somali was wounded, speculated that the Somalis were trying to loot the embassy. "We did not have any warning of an attack, but since they know we're going to leave the embassy they may have anticipated our withdrawal to try to get hold of material."

Somali witnesses said the attack was the work of former embassy employees who were disgruntled over their final

pay-off. Helicopters from a flotilla of ships off the coast covering the withdrawal swooped about over the broken city at dusk in a scene recalling the days last year when U.N. forces were locked in a fued with Gen. Aideed's militias.

The (U.S.) joint task force and Italian helicopters and a UNOSOM (U.N. Operation in Somalia) ground patrol failed to find any perpetrators," said Maj. Budge.

The attack could be a taste of coming chaos in the capital as thousands of American, Italian and German forces withdraw from Somalia ahead of a March 31 deadline and armed militias take over the lawless streets once more.

Italy moved it troops north from the Somali capital last July after a furious row with the U.N. and the United States

the Jewish leaders that function as links between the community and the government. Oilmen in Yemen face dangers said the authorities had "shown great concern over the threat and have taken all necessary precautions." knocked out the camp's com-He said the precautions inmunications centre and a heli-

DAMASCUS (AP) - The Sy-

rian authorities have intensi-

fied security to protect the country's small Jewish com-

munity following a death threat, a senior Jewish cleric

Deputy Chief Rabbi Yousef

Jajati said the threat that Jew-

ish blood would be spilled was

contained in a pamphlet secret-

ly placed in Jewish houses and

A U.S. State Department

announcement Thursday said department officials had

checked with the U.S. embassy

in Damascus and were in-

formed Syrian authorities were

aware of the threat and "had

taken actions to protect Jewish

Rabbi Jajati, who is one of

said Friday.

residents.

rols and guards around the community's synagogues, houses, shops and factories. The threat has upset Jewish

cluded intensified security pat-

residents, even though Rabbi Jajati called it "no more than Many Jewish youngsters told

the Associated Press they were afraid of the threat. Some who already had obtained exit visas but had preferred to remain in Syria, said they were now eager to leave the country as soon as possible.

According to the Jewish organisations in the United States, the pamphlet described the Jews as criminals and in an apparent reference to the attack by a Jewish extremist on a mosque in Hebron Feb. 25, called Jews cowards who "shoot bullets on the victims

when they are praying." Threatening revenge, the leaflet ended with the declaration that "the blood of all Jews living in Syria will be spilled starting on Sunday, the 13th of March 1994,"

The threat came the week after some 25 Syrian Jews who had emigrated to the United States came back to Syria, reportedly after failing to adapt

to the new environment. Rabbi Jajati said Friday that the remaining 850 to 950 Syrian Jews in the country had recently been given exit visas.

Jewish merchant Jacub Bekae said he was the first to alert the Syrian authorities about the threat, and he said they had taken the "necessary security precautions to protect the lives of the Jewish citizens." "Despite our worry and un-

ease as a result of the threat, I have decided to stay here, in Earlier Friday, authorities my hometown," he said.



OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) - Marwan Jawarish aged three and dressed as a commando - aimed his toy submachinegun at a group of Israeli soldiers and toddled towards them.

Embarrassed, they walked from the Palestinian boy.
"This is the first Israeli with-

drawal," one Arab man shouted to the sound of rare laughter and cheers on a main East Jerusalem street on

The taunt was just one sign of rising tensions and militancy following the Hebron massacre of about 60 praying Palestinians by a Jewish settler with an automatic rifle.

The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal signed last September has been losing ground fast, a casualty of the mosque killings and frustrations at the delay in implementing an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Marwan's father, Khaled, bought the boy his commando suit and took him five months ago to street celebrations over the peace deal. He now thinks it could be dead.

"We did not think at the time that there would be any massacre," Khaled said, "I am afraid the peace process is over. We are being shot like

birds."
Several Palestinians in the small crowd cheered and some jeered at the soldiers, who walked away to avoid being filmed by television cameras

confronting a boy. "The only alternative is an Islamic state. Only Islam can bring a solution (to the Palestinian problem)," said a 20-yearold youth who declined to be

About 10 people voicing opposition to the peace process drowned out a lone Palestinian

who spoke a few metres away in its favour outside the walls of the Old City.

Despite the initialling in Cairo last month of another agreement on security arrangements, the September peace deal remains ink on paper. No date set for the start of the Israeli pullout.

The mosque massacre a week ago has led to PLO demands for international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who had agreed to put off discussions on the fate of some 140 Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, is under pressure from his people to raise the subject now.

The nearly two million Palestinians in the occupied territories, most under army curfews since the massacre, also want the army to start leaving soon.

AP finds 30 killed

Thirty Palestinians were shot to death by Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein in the Hebron mosque massacre, rather than the higher figures reported earlier, according to an Associated Press check conducted Saturday.

The figure was compiled by speaking with the relatives of all people initially reported dead by hospital officials in the confusion right after the Feb. 25 bloodbath.

It emerged that several people registered as dead had only been wounded. One victim was counted twice, under two different names, and one man who was killed a day after the massacre was counted as a victim of Goldstein.

However, it is still possible the final death toll could change because Palestinians have said at least four massacre victims were buried without being taken to a hospital for certification of death.

# Jewish settlers play cat-and-mouse with army in W. Bank

KFAR TAPUAH, occupied West Bank (AP) - When the army showed up outside David Axelrod's front door with an order banning him from Palestinian areas and demanded his gun, he clambered out the bedroom window. Uzi in

The 27-year-old native of Queens, New York, and other fugitive militants are finding it easy to dodge arrest and even pop up on clandestine TV interviews, mocking the government's efforts to round them

"If they want to jail me let them find me. The same goes for my guns. Let them sweat it out and find them," said Axelrod, a leader of the Kahane Lives movement, one of the offshoots of the extremist Kach movement that calls for transferring Arabs out of the occupied territories.

The Palestinians have demanded that the settlers be disarmed before they will return to the peace talks, condemning the steps taken to date as insufficient. The U.S. has encouraged steps against the settlers.

Disarming settlers will be a difficult, if not impossible task. Weapons are common here. Nearly all Israeli men serve in the military reserves, hitchhiking or riding public buses to and from their units with their government-issued guns in hand. Illegal weapons are also readily available.

The government does not want to disarm settlers completely, leaving them vulnerable to attacks. So it has limited itself to trying to confiscate the government-issued automatic weapons. In the Hebron massacre Feb. 25, Dr. Baruch Goldstein, an American Kiryat Arba settler, used his army weapon to gun down at least 60 Palestinians in a

The Israeli cabinet decided last Sunday to use emergency powers to arrest the leaders of militant Jewish organisations and confiscate weapons. It also empowered the army to bar

tering Arab areas. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pledged to study whether it was possible to outlaw the Kach organisation and its various offshoots, but said legal difficulties had to be ex-

amined.

The army announced that in addition to six arrest warrants. orders were issued to take automatic weapons away from 18 other settlers. Only two settlers have been detained, and army spokesmen said other figures were not avail-

Both police and army officers complained about a lack of coordination among the secur-

caused heavy damage to shops,

homes and government build-

ings, followed the detention of

the members of parliament in

Ankara after the assembly

stripped them of their immun-

ity forces, suggesting this was one reason for the delay. Israel has held hundreds of Palestinians without trial dur-

ing the course of the uprising against occupation which began in 1987. Ehud Sprinzak, a Hebrew University of Jerusalem political scientist who specialises in right-wing extremists, said

Rabin's government was

caught off guard by the attack, adding that the cat-and-mouse game made the government's crackdown "look like a joke." Uri Dromi, director of the government press office, said the police had been tied up trying to control unrest, but would carry out the new orders

within days.
"We will get those people and the arms," he told the Associated Press.

At Tapuah, Axelrod said about 20 army and police officers showed up around 10:30 p.m. (2030 GMT) Thursday and one shot into air in

front of his house. 'They wanted people to think it was a terrorist attack so they would come out with their weapons. Then they started banging on doors," said Axelrod, who got his Uzi from the

Israeli army, where he is a first sergeant in the reserves. Axelrod said after he went out a window he stayed in the settlement until the convoy of four military vehicles departed. The army left behind letters for four Tapuah residents linked to the movement Kahane Lives, barring them from travelling to the Hebron

Kiryat Arba. "I have no intention of avoiding the place, especially since Kiryat, Arba has the grave of an important Jew. I visit there regularly to pray at the grave of Baruch Goldstein," said Axelrod.

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area, including the settlement

While he spoke Friday the only army visible was the soldier a few hundred metres away guarding the gate of this settlement, about 12 kilometres south of the West Bank city of Nablus.

Other fugitives have shown zel, the leader of Kach, toldstate-run Israel Television: "All the wanted are in contact with earh other. They are enjoying themselves. This is a

holiday. Settlers argue that if the measures had been taken against the militants before the Hebron attack, it could still have taken place since Goldstein had dropped his political work.

"They really have no idea who is who here," said Reuven Ben-David, a Tapuah resident who left his native Queens 10 years ago. "It's like the end of the movie Casablanca when the guy says round up the usual

### Turkish authorities free 2 pro-Kurdish MPs

ANKARA (AP) - Turkish authorities released two of the eight deputies Friday who were detained after the parliament lifted their immunity for allegedly promoting separat-

A public prosecutor in the western town of Bandirma released Hasan Mezarci, a Muslim fundamentalist deputy from Istanbul after his pre-trial

testimony, the Anatolia agency He caused a public furor for introducing a bill to honour the attempted assassins of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of

the modern secular Turkish

freed Selim Sadak, a deputy

**GUIDE AND** 

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from the southeastern Sirnak province, after his pre-trial testimony in the western city of Kocaeli, the agency said.

Mr. Sadak and five other deputies are from the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party. which is believed to have ties with a Kurdish rebel group, the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). The 10-year guerrilla war for

autonomy in southeastern Turkey has claimed more than

and one policeman were killed in the fighting, residents said. The overnight battles, which

CALENDAR

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

Clashes rocked the southeastern Turkish town of Cizre, a bastion of support for Kurdish rebels and nine civilians

ity from prosecution. Orhan Dogan, one of them, is from Cizre, all face charges

crimes against the state, which carry the death penalty. "The shooting started about eight o'clock yesterday evening

and went on until the morning. We have only just begun to go out now," one resident contacted by telephone said in the afternoon. "Everything is wrecked, it's a real mess." Local journalists said the fighting had begun with a PKK attack to which the security

forces responded with heavy gunfire, but information was sketchy and it was not clear exactly how the civilians had been killed. Residents in Cizre, which is

near the Syrian border, said shops and schools stayed shut all day as police in armoured cars prowled the streets, conducted searches and detained about 100 people in the town. known as a bastion of support for the PKK. A statement from the

emergency rule governor's office in Divarbakir said security forces had killed seven PKK rebels in clashes elsewhere in the southeast. It did not mention Cizre.

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**NIGHT DUTY** 

the government pledged army protection, but oilmen say it is ineffective.

ager, George Slaughter, like other oil company chiefs contacted by the AP, declined to discuss the attacks on the re-Bernard Isautier, president of Canadian Occidental Pet-

roleum, also refused comment on the security problem during a January visit. "It's a young democracy," he said. "And as we all know,

democracy doesn't arise sud-Jenly. It's an evolving process and, by any standard, Yemen is performing quite well." Unruly tribesmen, who the

government has never been able to control, have for years hijacked cars at gunpoint and kidnapped foreigners to force the government to redress grievances or secure oil company

But senior oil executives and Western diplomats, insisting on anonymity, said the pattern of attacks has changed in recent months to raids and bombings they say are too well

organised and executed to be the work of tribesmen alone. "They just come out bombing and shooting now," one company manager said. "That's not the attitude of peo-

ple who want to bargain. In one of the heaviest attacks, more than 50 raiders with machine-guns and antitank rockets attacked a logistics base operated by Total in the Shabwa region of southern

Yemen last September. In the 50-minute dawn assault, at least one Yemeni guard was killed and several were wounded. The raiders

Western security men, for-

Total halted operations until

mer soldiers hired by the oil companies to combat the attacks, said the Shabwa raid bore all the hallmarks of having been planned and carried out by trained military per-

sonnel. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has linked the recent kidnapping of oil company employees with his political feud with his main rival, Vice-Presi-

dent Ali Salem Beedh. He said in a recent interview: "This comes in a series of actions to tarnish the image of Yemen and we know who's behind these subversive inci-

But the oilmen suspect the attacks are instigated from outside, arguing that the tribesmen themselves would, like the country, lose economically if the oil companies pull out. In May 1992 and August 1993. Saudi Arabia warned

Hunt, France's ELF-Aquitaine

and four other Western oil companies to stop operations in border areas. Riyadh said they were trespassing on its land, tantamount to a Saudi claim to a large swathe of what has long been considered Yemeni territory. Some companies scaled back their operations, but explora-

After the Total attack, President Mitterrand was sufficiently alarmed to fly to Saudi Arabia to meet King Fahd in October while en route to a conference on Mauritius to discuss the threat to French oil in-

tion continued and new finds

Syrian

## Palestinian anger grows Jews uneasy

# five-day work week

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday is reconsidering a five-day work week for government offices, according to a statement following a regular Cabinet session Saturday.

The statement said the ministers will examine the effects of changing to an eight-hour work day with two days off at a later session.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal A! Hassan reported to the cabinet on the outcome of last week's visit to Jordan by Greek Foreign Minister Karolous Papoulias who is also the current president of the European Union

During the Greek envoy's brief visit, said Mr. Al Hassan, he discussed EU-Jordanian relations and agreement was reached on providing Jordan with credit facilities amounting to 124 million European Currency Units (ECU).

Mr. Al Hassan reported that

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

AMMAN (J.T.) - His Majesty King Hussein delegated

Jordan's Ambassador to Yemen Fayez Al Rabie to offer his

condolences to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh over the

death of Abdullah Al Sallal, former president of Yemen, who

died early Saturday. Mr. Sallal was one of the Yemeni leaders

who attended the Feb. 20 signing of the reconciliation and

reform agreement in Amman. King Hussein also sent a cable to Ali Abdullah Al Sallal, condoling him over the death of his

AMMAN (Petra) - Chief Islamic Justice Izzeddin Al Khatib

Al Tamimi Saturday called on the public to watch for the new moon of Sahwal Friday evening, March 11. The new moon marks the start of Eid Al Fitr, ending the holy month of

Ramadan. The chief justice requested those who spot the new

moon to report to the Sharia court and take on oath to that

AMMAN (Petra) - Ghassan Mifleh, Ministry of tourism

secretary general, Saturday met with an Italian tourist group

which include nine writers invited to visit Jordan's attractions.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini, who was

present at the meeting, said Jordan is a major attraction in the Middle East for Italian tourists in view of its security and

political stability. The ministry said that the 50-member group

represents the first of several tourist groups which will be

visiting Jordan on a weekly basis in cooperation with an Italian

AMMAN (Petra) - The Jordan Exports Development and

Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Saturday said

that it has completed three studies on the possibilities of

marketing national products in Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria. It

said currently JEDCO teams are conducting four studies on

markets in Islamic states of Central Asia with the aim of

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD)

Saturday said it responded to 1,838 emergencies in February.

It said that 50 people died in February as a result of these

AMMAN (Petra) - The Lands and Survey Department

Saturday announced it collected JD3,767,698 during Febru-

ary, registering 10 per cent less than fees collected in January. Department Director Ali Gharaibeh said that February's

collections, however, registered a four per cent increase over

fees collected in February 1993. The fees are collected on real

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and

the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed

**EXHIBITIONS** 

Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Ayasrah at the Royal Cultural

☆ Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmi entitled "Studies in the

Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art

⇒ Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural

★Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational

☆ Art exhibition by artist Jaial Ariqat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00

☆ Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30

☆ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.

time and place with the concerned institutions.

JEDCO completes 3 market studies

introducing Jordanian products in these countries.

CDD deals with 1,838 emergencies

Lands department collects JD3.7m

Public asked to watch for new moon

50 Italian tourists visit ministry

tourist and travel agency.

estate transactions.

and Culture.

a.m.-2:30 p.m.).

--(5)

King condoles Yemeni leader

Mr. Papoulias promised that Greece would study a Jordanian request to allow Royal Jordanian (RJ) landing rights at Salonic airport in northern Greece and for increased trade cooperation between the two

Also at Saturday's session, the ministers endorsed the 1994 general budgets of semiindependent institutions which include the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Jordanian Ports Corporation and the Housing and Urban Development Department, the Free Zones Corporation, the Civil Service Consumer Corporation, the Post Office Savings Fund, the Institute of Public Administration, the Water Authority, the Aqaba Railway Corporation, the Jordan Investment Corporation, the Public Transport Corporation, the Vocational Training Corporation, the Aqaba Region Authority, the Hijaz Railway, the Jordan Academy of Arabic and the National Aid Fund.

# reach JD 700,000 in Amman alone

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The national committee charged with fundraising for the victims of the Hebron massacre has collected more than JD 700,000 in the Greater Amman area alone, according to Ahmad Helayel, the committee's official spokesperson.

Dr. Helayel said the figure is expected to rise further when collections from governorates have been counted. Chief Islamic Justice and

Committee Chairman Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi will chair a meeting of heads of fund-raising sub-committees in Amman and the governorates

to assess the situation, Dr. Helayel said.

Dr. Helayel told the Jordan Times the monies will be distributed via a special committee formed in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron made up of charitable societies and the Hebron municipality as well as the committee in Jordan.

Dr. Helayel, who is also Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs secretary general, said Israel has begun to erect a fence on Al Buraq wall within the Al Aqsa Mosque com-pound in Jerusalem. He said any tampering with the status quo in the holy places constitutes a flag ant violation of the sanctity of the holy mosque, considered the third holiest

Dr. Helayel described the fencing measure as part of Israel's drive to Judaise the city and overtake the Islamic holy

Jordan plans to bring this development to the attention of the concerned international

forums, he said.

As part of Israel's drive to interfere in Muslim religious rights, added Dr. Helayel, the occupation authorities Friday barred Muslims from entering the Aqsa Mosque and instead allowed Israeli settlers into the compound. He said the Israelis also barred Muslims from performing prayers at Al Ibrahimi Mosque but allowed Jewish

# , Cabinet reconsidering | Donations to Hebron massacre victims | International forum to discuss civil defence work and change

AMMAN (Petra) - An international conference on civil defence wil be held in Amman early next month under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Afif Al Ghoul

Several issues related to social, political and technological changes and developments and their impact on civil defence work will be discussed by the participants, said Gen. Ghoul. He said special attention will be given to environmental protection, dangers faced by civilian populations and measures to deal with major migrations.

During the conference an international exhibition of modern technological inventions used in civil defence op-erations will be organised, he



Gen. Ghoul said major international companies and loc-

al firms are expected to partici-

pate in the three-day exhibi-

The conference is organised by the Geneva-based International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) which was established in 1931 to intensify and coordinate the development and improvement of means and techniques to prevent and reduce the consequences of natural disasters in times of peace and the use of weapons in times of conflict.

The meeting, scheduled to start on April 3, will be attended by about 300 delegates from 45 rations, said Gen. Ghoul.

The confere e, the fifth such gathering id the first to be held in a M lie East country, is to be followed by a two-day general assembly meeting, Gen. G foul added.

# Blast convict's father questions lawyer's about-face

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The devastated father of a Jordanian convicted in the New York World Trade Centre bombing is agonising over why his son's lawyer did a volte-face in his summation, which he believes led to the conviction of not only his son but also another three defendants.

Amin Salameh, father of Mohammad Salameh (26), who, along with three others. was found guilty by a jury in a New York court Friday, is also bitter that no Jordanian organisation or individual stepped forward to help him or advise him

He said he had obtained a three-month-valid U.S. visa in September, but did not have enough money to buy a ticket to New York to visit his son and see whether there was anything he could do to help establish his innocence.

Mr. Salameb, a retired army lieutenant who hails from Bedia village in the West Bank, works for Amman Customs Clearing Agency to provide for his family of 11 children younger to Mohammad and their mother with his army pension and a ID 120 monthly salary.

"I did not leave a single known door unknocked," he told the Jordan Times. "But there was nobody who was willing to help, including those who call themselves human rights activists and experts in law."

"They had no interest in the case, and many appeared anxious not to have anything to do with it," he said.

"My question to them is: "Isn't every accused entitled to a fair trial? And if so, was. my son given a fair trial? Did any Jordanian lawyer take the slightest interest to find out whether the trial followed the due process of the law?"

Mr. Salameh, 51, who fled his village along with his family in the 1967 war, believes that neither his son nor any of the other three is guilty, and that Israeli agents seeking to distort the image



Mohammad Salameh

of Arabs and Muslims had a hand in the affair and entrapped the accused in the case.

"My instinct and conscien-ce tells me there is much more to the entire affair than we have been told," he said, adding that the summation of his son's lawyer, Richard Precht, was the most damaging element that led to the guilty verdict.
"Throughout the trial, the

lawyer was very good and made a very good case of Mohammad's defence. But, for some unknown reasons, he took a complete turn in the last minute," said Mr. Salameh, who lives in Zarga.

"Perhaps he was coerced, pressured or forced into doing that," he said. "But it does not change the fact that my son and three others now face life in prison."

He was referring to Mr. Precht's closing argument that Mohammad Salameh was an unwitting victim of another defendant who trapped him into taking part in the Feb. 26 explosion at the twin-towers. The blast killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

an accused who remains at large, as an "evil genius," Mr. Precht asserted that Mohammad Salameh was duped by Mr. Yousef. "Mohammad Salameh was terribly misled, terribly manipulated... by a person who came into this country with a single mission, to destroy American targets," Mr. Precht told the court on Feb.

Mr. Precht was the only

defence lawer who presented such an argument, which implied that there was a bomb plot and Mr. Salameh was part of it. All others maintained the total innocence of their clients and at least one of them accused Mr. Precht of undermining his client's

Mr. Salameh said his son contacted him over the phone on Thursday, less than 24 hours before the verdict was announced.

"He sounded very confident that all would be acquitted," Mr. Salameh said. "He told me he would be with us here in a few days."

"Even the lawyer, who had called me a few days earlier, told me the same thing. He said the charges were unfounded and unsubstantiated," said Mr. Salameh.

The ex-serviceman noted that Mohammad had filed a petition to the judge that Mr. Precht's incriminatory summation did not represent his views and that the lawyer was no longer his legal coun-

"But the court decided to accept the lawyer's argument that there was no change in his status as Mohammad's counsel," Mr. Salameh said.

"I don't know why (Precht) did such an injustice to my son, who always maintained his innocence and never told the lawyer anything of the nature that was presented to the court," said Amin Salameh.

"My limited knowledge of things tells me a lawyer is not supposed to invent things and present them in court on behalf of his client," he said. "Where did he get the notion part, witting or otherwise, in the attack?

Mr. Salameh said his son, who has been in touch with the family over the phone from his prison, "always swore by God and assured me that he had nothing to do with the bombing and that he was never involved in any

subversive plots. "I brought up and educated my son, and I believe

# Jordan Cement Factories Company plant in Rashadleh (file photo) Cement factories to implement pollution reduction programme in response to King's urging

AMMAN (Petra) - The Jordan Cement Factories Com-pany (JCFC) is implementing a programme to drastically reduce the amount of pollution to the environment caused by falling cement dust and chimney smoke from its factories, JCFC Board Chairman Mohammad Saeed Abu Nowar announced Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the company's head office in Fuheis where the main JCFC factories are located. Mr. Abu Nowar said the company Thursday signed contracts with German and Danish firms to implement the programme beginning around mid-1994 and continuing throughout next year.

The programme, which will introduce improvements to the factories' ability to control and reduce the dust and smoke, is expected to cost a total of JD 32 million, and it will be implemented at the JCFC factories in Fuheis and Rashadieh in southern Jordan, said Mr. Abu Nowar.

The equipment to be installed is designed to absorb the dust and smoke rising from the kilns. Mr. Abu Nowar explained.

When the factories were established in 1951, to produce 1,500 tonnes of cement daily, not much attention was given to the environment and no precautionary measures were taken to protect it and the local residents, Mr. Abu Nowar

He said the current production is 5,700 tonnes per day, and there is an urgent need to

JOB OPPORTUNITY

control the dust and smoke. Also addressing the press conference was Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Akaileh who said the ministry followed the JCFC's studies and prepared a comprehensive report on the environment in Jordan taking into account all forms of pollution including the dust from the cement fac-

The minister said a law based on the National Environment Strategy will be passed very soon.

He said Saturday's press conference was held in response to a call by His Majesty King Hussein to correct the environmental hazards resulting from the JCFC's opera-

#### Describing Ramzi Yousef, that Mohammad had any

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tions, and stressed that his accusations are baseless and lack objectivity.

motion to present the case to the House and to have it consi-

The House, which had earlier referred the case to its Judiciary Committee, is this week expected to review the committee's report.

# Abu Ghanimeh charges are baseless, say three targetted Islamist deputies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three Islamist deputies have described their differences with a former member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and former member of the 11th Parliament as personal and baseless, and attributed the conflict to campaigning prior to the Nov.

8 elections. Former Islamist Deputy Ziad Abu Ghanimeh accused three of his former IAF colleagues, Hamzeh Mansour, Abdul Rahim Al Ekour and Mohammad Oweidah, of slander, defamation of character and libel and filed a kgal suit against them.

Justice Mirister Taher Hikmat addressed the Parliament requesting legal procedures to facilitate their trial.

Responding to Mr. Abu Ghanimeh's charges, the three deputies sent a memo to the House stating what they claim are the reasons behind the charges and refuting the allega-

The deputies said that during the 1993 elections the claimant had attempted to win the support of Mr. Ekour and Mr. Oweidah. According to their memo, Mr. Abu Gha-nimeh sent a letter to the IAF rejecting Mr. Mansour's right

to run for elections in the Second District. The deputies said Mr. Ghanimeh claimed that Mr. Mansour failed to get the nomina-

tion in his own district of Sahab and therefore ran in Mr. Abu Ghanimeh's district. According to the memo, Mr. Abu Ghanimeh won only four votes of nomination from the

IAF. The deputies said Mr. Abu Ghanimeh contested the IAF General Assembly's decision and sent a letter of protest to the IAF executive bureau. which in turn rejected his pro-When he failed to influence

the IAF's decisions, the memo continued, Mr. Abu Ghanimeh resorted to the press and started a defamation, libel and slander campaign against those whom he thought had failed him.

Against this backdrop, the memo said, the IAF's executive bureau took a decision to expel Mr. Abu Ghanimeh from the IAF.

Earlier, the Muslim Brotherbood movement also expelled him from membership, the deputies' memo said. The memo said the three deputies refrained from responding to Mr. Abu Ghanimeh's provoca-



The deputies welcomed the

dered by the concerned judges. "This case aims only to settle previous personal accounts on the background of nomination for election and to provide material for the media with the aim of affecting our parliamentary performance," the de-

#### ☆ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).

Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.

a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).

★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French ★ "Permaneut" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at

Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (Tel. 643251/2). Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

Film entitled "The Outlaw Josey Wales" at the American

Center at 2:30 p.m. (135 minutes).

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#### Promise behind the scene

IT MICAT still be too close to call, but all indicato's point to the inevitability of providing some kit i of international protection to the Palestinians un ler Israeli occupation and the elevation of the issue of settlements on the Palestine Liberation Organis tion (PLO)-Israeli peace agenda. PLO nego"ator Nabil Shaath had a satisfactory session with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington Friday at the conclusion of which he stated that the U.S. now backs the proposal to place armed international observers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We are satisfied that we have the serious concerns of the United States reflected by the Secretary and State Department people and the President," Shaath said at the end of his encounter with Christopher.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has also been busy floating ideas on how to put in place an effective international regime in a bid to defuse the crisis that erupted in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre. Ghali has been working behind the scenes to lobby for the idea ever since the massacre made it urgent and necessary.

Meanwhile the European Community (EC) is moving in the same direction, as Greek Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias, whose country holds the European Union (EU) presidency, confirmed during his recent visit to the region that Europeans are very sympathetic to the proposal of providing security to Palestinians.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has also urged the upgrading of the issue of Israeli settlements from its current position on the peace agenda. "We believe the issue of the settlements and of their eventual regrouping should be the object of negotiations between the parties," Juppe said in Paris on Friday at the conclusion of his meeting with PLO top negotiator Yasser Abed Rabbo.

Under the Oslo accord, the future of the settlements would come to the negotiating table only three years after Palestinian self-rule begins in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The stage appears to be set, therefore, to accommodate the Palestinians' reasonable and legitimate demands for greater security for their people as well as for urgent consideration of the entire settlements file. It would prove to be a positive development indeed should the projected U.N. Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre incorporate language to that effect. irrespective of the earlier PLO-Israeli agreement to shelve the Israeli settlements issue till three years later, there are now new realities on the ground to press ahead with an immediate consideration and resolution of this timebomb. The mutual interests of Israel and the PLO stand to benefit from an expeditious resolution of the settlements problem since it stands to derail everything else agreed upon between the parties, if it is allowed to fester and simmer for an additional three years. Besides, the Israeli colonies in Palestinian territories go to the heart of the Palestinian-Israeli peace deal and the sooner they are addressed the better it would be for

#### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

NO ONE can imagine how the peace process can be conducted against a background of terrorism and massacres committed against the Palestinian people, said Al Dustour daily Saturday. The Palestinians are continually subjected to iniustice, repression and intimidation in their own land and have no hope for escaping the genocide or dreaming of becoming independent as long as the occupation lasts and the acts of terrorism continue, the paper said. The ugly crime at Al-Ibrahim: Mosque has exposed the real nature of the Israelis and rendered false their claim of seeking peace with the Palestinians and the Arabs at large, said the paper. There is no doubt that the Palestinian people are in desperate need for protection and guarantees for their security in the face of their Zionist terrorists, the enemies of human rights and peace, continued the paper. As for the peace process, it will fall short of achieving the aspired peace despite the Arab parties' readiness to pursue all efforts towards that objective simply because all the endeavours are thwarted by Israel through its atrocities and procrastinations at the negotiating table, added the paper. Only when the United Nations and the world community provide the essential elements for peace and guarantee Israel's abidance by U.N. principles, said the paper. can the Arabs believe that the way for peace is open. Otherwise, peace talks under the present conditions are like building castles in the air.

SALEH AL OALLAB, a columnist in Al Dustour, condemned the reported attacks on foreign tourists visiting the Kingdom and called for drastic action to deter further attacks. Assaults on the tourists after every mishap and massacre that occurs in the occupied Arab lands does not require mere statements of regret but rather concerted action on the part of all the concerned authorities to prevent further attacks on the tourists who as: innocent citizens and have no relation what so ever with the Israe actions, said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fabed Fanek

## **Arabs not Middle Easterners!**

ARAB INTELLECTUALS are fond of picking up words and idioms thrown on them, from time to time, by the West. We sometimes stick to the usage of those words and idioms more than those who coined them. One of the major examples that come to mind is the "new world order," which was invented by the speech writers of the ex-president of the United States George Bush. Arab intellectuals picked up the term, which became a household term and an integral part of their language, even though America itself abandoned the term, which was never used by its new President Bill Clinton, who deleted "the new world order" from his dictionary.

The resounding fall of the old world order of bipolarity does not necessarily mean more than the introduction of a new transitional and liquid period, when all rules and regulations are temporarily suspended, ignored, distorted or made onesided, and replaced by the law of jungle, until such time when the international society is able to produce, and agree on, a real new and durable world order.

Something similar is happening in regard to the new term "Middle East market" or "Middle East order." Both terms were invented by Western think-tanks, based in Washington. Boston, or Tel-Aviv. Our politicians and intellectuals became busy with these terms although, so far, there is no project or draft of Middle East market presented to any Arab country to

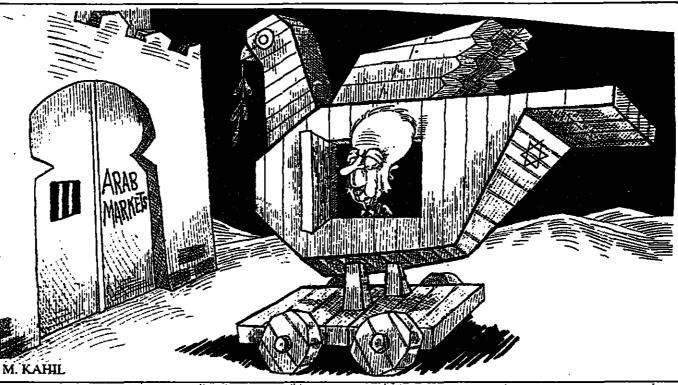
As a matter of fact, the Middle East was never defined for the purposes of the so called Middle East market. It can be as big as the whole Arab World plus Turkey and Iran, or as small as Israel, Palestine and Jordan (Penalux), or anything in

At the outset, we should distinguish between a Middle East market and a Middle East order. The "market" in this context has a commercial or economic nature. It may mean economic integration, or removing barriers in the form of a free trade area, a customs union or a common market. The "order" on the other hand means common political and security institutions, such as transforming the Arab League into a Middle East league. The common factor among all versions of Middle East markets and orders is the inclusion of Israel and the removal of Arab identity to be replaced by a Middle East identity. We shall no more call ourselves Arabs but Middle Easterners! The relations between one Arab country and another will be the same like the relation between an Arab country and Israel, or, for that matter, Iran and Turkey. It seems that Israel is not yet sure if it wants a Middle East

market because it is not willing to open up its market for Arab labour, capital or less expensive goods. It definitely would like to see a Middle East order and become an integral part of the Middle East from a political and security viewpoints. In that case — a Middle East market can be taken for granted if and when Israel wanted it.

Israel, during the last 46 years, existed in the Middle East only from a geographical point of view. Politically, it is situated in America as the 51st state, while commercially and culturally it can be found somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean between Europe and the United States.

The economic and political normalisation of relations, that may take place at the state level, subsequent to a peaceful settlement, should not necessarily mean the establishment of a Middle East market or a Middle East order, unless such set-ups were imposed on the Arab side, to give Israel a special leading role, exceeding its status as a normal country, such as Turkey or Cyprus, which have normal and peaceful relations with all Arab countries, without having to be included in the Arab political or security order, or admitted in the Arab



# Serbs remain tough foe despite losses

The Associated Press

PALE. Bosnia-Herzegovina -- Newfound NATO resolve combined with manpower and political problems are eroding the dominance Bosnian Serbs enjoyed in 23 months of war. But they remain a potent force the Bosnian army cannot defeat.

Without a negotiated solution, the war may turn into a stalemate with relatively stable. World War 1-style front lines.

"The strategic initiative has been slipping from the Serbs' hands for some time now," said Milos Vasic, a Belgrade defence expert. "But the withdrawal of their guns from around Sarajevo under the threat of NATO bombing has publicly humiliated them, and forced them on the detensive for the first

Bosnian Serbs backed down and removed their guns when faced with the threat of

NATO bombing. Although they denied that the planes shot down by U.S. F-16s on Monday were theirs. the incident was a clear signal to the Bosnian Serbs that they will have to be careful using their air power in the

By Deborah Zabarenko

Reuter

WASHINGTON — For a

man who wanted to be Amer-

ica's domestic policy presi-

dent. Bill Clinton has faced a

fistful of foreign crises, and

February has been one of the

cruelest months on this score.

Most recently, the mas-sacre of over 60 Palestinians

by a Jew at a mosque on the

West Bank on Friday has

threatened to derail the U.S.-

sponsored Middle East peace

In addition, February has

- A touch-and-go cease-

fire in Bosnia following a

U.S.-led NATO threat to

launch air strikes followed by

a shooting incident involving

U.S. planes over Bosnia

- The arrest of a high-

ranking mole at the Central

Intelligence Agency and fears

that he may have shared

damaging information with

Balk-ness from North

Monday morning

also seen:

Fixed-wing planes and especially helicopters have been a vital part of the Bosnian Serbs' military operations. The helicopters have ferried men and material, evacuated the wounded and been used as gunships.

All of that has been a big boost against the Bosnian army, which has an advantage in infantry but virtually no aircraft or aircraft de-

During the first year of war, Bosnian Serbs, equipped by the Yugoslav army and commanded by Ratko Mladic, one of its most aggressive generals. steadily expanded the area

under their control. Armed with 800 tanks and armoured personnel carriers and 1,300 artillery pieces. they brushed aside the lightly armed Bosnian government police units that faced them.

But as the territory under their occupation increased to the present 70 per cent, the main weakness of the Bosnian Serbs became increasingly apparent: their relatively constricted manpower pool has never allowed them to put more than 80,000 soldiers in the field.

Those soldiers must both garrison the territory they

hold and defend a long front line, Mr. Vasic said.

In contrast, the newly created army of the Muslim-led Bosnian government, though shackled by a lack of weapons, has vastly improved its capabilities, developing into an efficient light infantry force.

Its main weakness remains the lack of adequate fire support for the troops. Numbering about 150,000 men, the government side has 15 times less heavy weaponry than the

Recent battlefield reverses have demonstrated to Serb commanders that their muchvaunted superiority in heavy armaments can no longer assure military victory. "If the Muslims had the

quantity of weapons we have. they would have kicked us out of Bosnia long ago," said Djoko Vukic, a Serb military policeman serving on the front near Olovo, in central Bosnia. Serb military policeman serv-ing on the front near Olovo. in central Bosnia.

A major offensive against Olovo, ambitiously conceived to surround the government-held industrial centre of Tuzla in northeastern Bosnia, petered out in January after 45 days with heavy

Even the presence of Yugoslav army special forces could not shake government

Another development worrying Serb military leaders is the possibility that the Bosnian Croats, whose 30,000 men have been fighting against the government side for the past year, could forge an alliance with the government forces.

The Croats, who entered the war on the government side but later turned against their allies, are negotiating with the Muslim-led government on an alliance and a possible confederation. if the talks are success.

Croat forces might rejoin the government forces in fighting the Serbs.

Despite this, the Bosnian Serb military remains capable of keeping up the pressure on the Sarajevo government to accept a peace accord that would leave the Serbs in possession of much of what they have conquered.

They apparently have redeployed weaponry removed from around Sarajevo, and are likely to remain particularly effective against isolated and lightly defended Muslim pockets.

# Foreign crisis for 'domestic policy' president

Korea in the face of repeated demands for international inspection of nuclear sites

- A U.S. visit by Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, which strained Washington's 'special relationship' with

Former defence secretary Dick Cheney called Mr. Clinton's foreign policy "naive" and "soft," and chortled a bit about Mr. Clinton's intention to focus on domestic affairs.

"Given what's going on inthe Middle East and in Russia and in Bosnia and in Korea... President Clinton doesn't have the luxury that he thought he had when he came to office, that he could

ignore toreign policy issues or put them on the back bur-ner," Mr. Cheney said Sun-day on NBC's "Meet the Press" programme.

Plainly, that was what Mr. Clinton had in mind during his 1992 campaign, when his aides took as their motto the phrase: "It's the economy, stupid" and they did not mean the world economy.

But if Mr. Clinton won the White House by focusing on domestic policies, he is being forced to focus on foreign affairs every time a new crisis

In the case of the West Bank Massacre, Mr. Clinton appeared in the White House briefing room within hours of

Friday's attack to call for renewed, continuous negotia-tions towards a Middle East His comments made even-

ing news broadcasts and front pages of newspapers across the United States. But two days later, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon cut short peace talks with Israel. A U.S. official said this

was a micrary cooling-off period 24. not a permanent breakdown, but Israel was disappointed by the Arab de-

At the same time, Washington peace talks between Bosnian Muslims and Croats continued Sunday with some progress but no breakthroughs.

And Capitol Hill was alive with calls for cuts in aid to Russia in the wake of the CIA spy scandal and slow progress towards economic

Even Britain, for so long a rock-solid U.S. ally, is drawing Mr. Clinton's personal

# National or government broadcasting?

By Radi Alkhas

THE RECENT debate onthe role of the official media, following His Majesty the King's remarks to members of Parliament at an Iftar banquet, has highlighted the need for change. But what kind of change must be effected and how can it be

A national broadcasting concept has to be based on accuracy, objectivity, re-liability and the pursuit of truth in disseminating information. It should cover issues with honesty, fairness and impartiality in all matters in the public domain. The view held by the majority has to be reflected, even if this majority is mostly silent. Minority views have to be respected as such, even if they are loud and aggressive. That means suitable proportion of transmission time has to be allocated to both par-

A commitment of this kind requires professional integrity, avoiding self-centred atti-tudes and personal obsessions with particular ideologies or prejudices.

In order to perform such a role, national broadcasting

 Be politically and financially independent. — Have a dynamic man-

agement in the context of a growing and aggressive com- Adapt strategies that correspond to the rapid evolution of the political, so-

cial and economic environment, and increase creative productivity. The above is not farfetched and is not difficult to achieve, taking into consideration the political will and the progressive democratic process in Jordan. In the past

few years, with the blessing

and support of His Majesty

the King and the successive

governments, Jordan Radio & Television Corporation (JRTV) managed to pass a bye-law that went into effect in January. The bye-law exempts the corporation from the civil service regulations. This means an improved and competitive salary scale that allowed the corporation to employ creative and productive Jordanians who could not be hired before, and provided for flexibility in improving the salaries of the existing productive staff. In order to have financial independence, JRTV has submitted to the prime minister's office a draft bye-law, proposing that the budget of the corporation come from revenue of television tax (JD 1 per month) in addition to income from advertisement and other commercial enter-

Many of the present members of the staff are highly professional and can successfully perform all duties required from a national broadcasting corporation. Staff training should be highly emphasised. A training plan is being currently implemented to improve the professional standards of the existing and the newly appointed employees.

The existing JRTV law gives the minister of information the authority to formu-late policies of the corporation. With our democratic process proceeding as well as it can, this law must be changed in order to accommodate the idea of a national broadcasting corporation.

We are not far from a national broadcasting system if we can change our perceptions of the past, and accept and respect a responsible dialogue among people with different views.

The writer is director general of Jordan Radio & Television Cor-

#### **LETTERS**

# Waiting for Columbus!

To the Editor:

THE WORLD recently celebrated the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of the New World. Although this discovery brought untold riches, it brought, in its wake, innumerable tragedies and hardships for the Muslims and Jews

How ironic, that now, just over 500 years later, as the world stands on the verge of another discovery, the new world order, the same tragedies and hardships are replaying themselves all over the globe: in Bosnia where a Christian Slav is killing another Muslim Slav, in Israel and Palestine where a Semite is killing another Semite, in Afghanistan where a Muslim is killing another Muslim and in Christian is killing another Christian.

The Muslims, Jews, Christians, and what not of God's creatures, look up to the United States for guidance and leadership. They are aware of what is happening to them, but are unable to remedy the "why" of what is happening. To them, the USA is not only the only military super-power; it is the super moral leader of the world.

Five hundred years ago Columbus discovered the New World. Five hundred years later, the world is still waiting for another Columbus to discover the new world order.

The U.S. president is the right man, at the right time and at the right place to be that Columbus.

> Sincerely Ludwig W. Tamari Potomac, Maryland the United States.

#### A'bewildering' decision To the Editor:

I FIND the fact that Jordan may choose not to show the film Schindler's List because it may "show sympathy for the Jews," and because people cannot be expected to show such sympathy in the wake of the Hebron massacre (Jordan Times, March 3-4), to be sad and bewildering. Such a decision would miss one of that of most valuable

essons we can possibly learn from such a tragedy as Hebron's. Until the lessons of the past are learned, they are destined to be repeated over and again.

One of the most important reasons for showing films such as Schindler's List is that we should never forget the horror and calculated intent of the holocaust. Films such as Schindler's List are, first and foremost, testimony to the inhumanity of man, wherever it occurs and whoever is the victim; be it the Jews of Europe, the Muslims of Bosnia or the Palestinians under occupation.

It is because this inhumanity is still with us today that it is not only desirable but essential that Schindler's List be shown at this time.

> Mark Power Stevens Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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# empitched battles in Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

nons in recent days, heightening the unease of Israelis wall-already bracing for revenge attacks.

These reflect the growing t fury and frustration among the two million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza a Strip with Israel for refusing to dismantle any of the 144 Jewish settlements that have now prob become a crucial factor in the

the peace equation.

The occupied The occupied territories remained sealed off by the army Saturday, fuelling Arab anger in the massacre's violent aftermath in which 27 people, all but two them Arabs, have perished.

In the settlements, Israelis were tightening security, with troops escorting settler convoys following army warnings that attacks are likely - and that the thinly-stretched military may not be able to thwart

The U.S. State Department Saturday warned Americans not to travel in the occupied territories and Arab Jerusalem because of the violence.

The army reported Saturday that four Palestinians were killed Friday - all shot while "Ili allegedly carrying automatic weapons or attacking Israelis 🐠 🤫 with knives.

In the preceding week, nearly all those killed by troops RT were young Arabs.

Faisal Husseini, the PLO's top representative in the occupied territories, declared at the rally: "After the massacre, there has been a change in the ground rules."

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He said that the terms of the September accord "cannot be accepted any more... the settlements are a time bomb. We

"If the settlements in Hebron and elsewhere remain, there will be more massacres,

Jibril Rajoub, a close aide of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat expelled by the Israelis from Hebron in 1986, warned in Tunis that if Israel does not uproot all its settlements in the occupied territories, "we'll distribute weapons to the Palestinians and return to the armed Struggle\_"

We don't want to live next Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth dai-ly published Friday. "No one can promise that Hebronites will not take revenge."

Mr. Arafat is under growing grassroots pressure to abandon the peace negotiations until. Israel takes tough action against the 120,000 settlers, who have an estimated 20,000 automatic weapons, and agrees to deploy an armed international force to protect Palesti-

Israel has said it will discuss allowing unarmed civilian observers, but will not talk about the settlements' future until 1996, under the terms of

Mr. Husseini said Friday that Palestinians would not readdresses their demands, not-

#### Israel wants talks resumed

(Continued from page 1)

Asked if Mr. Christopher backed this proposal, Dr. Shaath said: "The resolution, including parts of it that are supported by the United States, will include international presence in the occupied Memitories.

Dr. Shaath said "modalities and timing" are still under discussion but "they will have to be security people. We're not talking about historians and psychoanalysts... the na-ture of their armaments is part of the modalities.

"We had positive discussions on these requirements (with the Americans) and we have not finished these discussions," he said.

"We want to resume the peace process as soon as possible and to do that we need that security enhancement," to protect Palestinians from Jewish

extremists, he said. Earlier, Mr. Christopher said in a television interview that he believes there is room for compromise so Palestinians and Israelis can resume peace

He spoke as new violence flared in the territories, the continuing aftermath of last week's massacre.

"I think there is room for compromise. I think that because I think (Israeli) Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Rabin is determined to resume the negotiations," Mr. Christ-opher said on ABC Television's "Good Morning Amer-

ica" programme. But he rejected Palestinian demands that the issue of Jewish settlements in the West Bank be placed on the agenda

of the current negotiations. State Department deputy spokeswoman Christine Shelly said Mr. Christopher met for about 50 minutes with Dr.

Marylait

Shaath. They discussed the importance of resuming the (Israeli-PLO) negotiations and the secretary heard from Dr. Shaath about the whole range of Palestinian concerns and

particularly as they relate to security," Ms. Shelly said. Dr. Shaath continued talks during the afternoon with other members of the U.S. peace team headed by Dennis Ross, special coordinator for

the Middle East peace process. "Certainly both the secretary and Dr. Shaath recognised the importance of getting the negotiations moving again. Our consultations with them about exactly when those talks can reconvene are still coninuing," the deputy spokesman said. "There isn't a date

fixed at this point." While she could not provide a complete account of the talks with the PLO special envoy. Ms. Shelly said: "Certainly there is a very broad recognition of the need to provide adequate security for all Palestinians and Israelis 25 they work toward the peaceful resolution of their differ-

She noted the secretary has said on various occasions that cannot accept they stay on our

he declared.

to people who are killing us," he said in an interview with

the September accord. turn to the talks until Israel ing: "We haven't given up on peace. But... I'm afraid that this peace process is dying."

"the matter of monitors is something that we view in the context of the declaration of principles which contains a provision regarding a temporary international or foreign presence as agreed on by the parties." That reference appears in Annex II of the Protocol on Withdrawal of Israeli Forces from the Gaza

The deputy spokesman said she could not elaborate on what Dr. Shaath told reporters "because the whole issue of the temporary international presence and precisely the modalities which might relate to that are something that have to be

Strip and Jericho area, she

agreed by the parties." Mr. Christopher emphasised that the U.S. view that it's very important to get the (Israeli-PLO negotiations resumed and

to get the implementation completed is the surest way to change the realities on the ground," Ms. Shelly said. She acknowledged under persistent questioning that "the subject of monitors, the

subject of security and the range of Palestinian concerns and their ideas on this were things that were discussed." But she declined to provide details about the U.S. response to Dr. Shaath's proposals or possible U.S. support for them

Ms. Shelly told a questioner that the subject of violence in the territories is one on which the United States has "regular discussions" with both the Israelis and the Palestinians. "What is necessary is restraint on both sides," she said.

The State Department bas been "in touch with the Justice Department" to examine whether or not the administration might be able to ban contribution by American citizens to militant Israeli settlers, Ms.

Shelly acknowledged. Existing laws deal with the overall question of U.S. private support for extremist groups abroad, she said. We're reviewing options under existing laws as well as considering whether new laws or new regulations would be appropriate to deal with the issue." She said the State Department is also in close liaison with domestic law enforcement agencies which are specifically responsible for enforcing U.S. laws on the matter.

# **Afrikaners**

(Continued from page 1)

dication of a pending division of the group, which claims to represent most of the nation's three million Afrikaners the Dutch-descended settlers of South Africa.

Mr. Hartzenberg and Mr. Viljoen called for a referendom among South Africa's five million whites to determine how many support creating a white homeland. Two years ago, whites voted 2-1 in favour of President F.W. de Klerk's reforms to end apartheid.

# Havel's former prison holds tourists captive

By Jeremy Smith

PRAGUE - Tourists needing a bed in one of the world's top travel destinations can now book in at a room with a difference - the cell where Czech President Vaclav Havel was imprisoned by the former Communist secret police.

For a mere \$33 a night, anyone can stay in the cells used to detain suspects such as dissident-turned-president Havel before they were subjected to sometimes grisly interrogations.

After the Communists were toppled in the bloodless 1989 "Velvet Revolution," a private tourist organisation, JVN Pensions, turned the detention centre into a hotel, located in a prime position in the heart of Prague's historic old town.

"People like staying here... But we don't differentiate between Havel's cell and the rest," said Jiri Vidim, co-owner of JVN Pensions.

"We don't write in any brochure that Vaclav Havel was locked up here many times, although it's a historical fact - (Prague) castle could say that we're misusing the president's name for commercial purposes," he told Reu-

Mr. Havel seems to be amused by all the interest. "Personally I would rather sleep in a hotel than a prison, especially if I am paying the

expenses," he said recently. During a visit by Britain's Prince Charles to Prague in December 1992, Mr. Havel escorted the prince to the former prison to show him where he used to stay.

Mr. Havel's cell, number six, is often booked weeks in advance by Western tour groups. Their members stole a brass plate with the legend in English "President Vaclav Havel was jailed here" so many times that the owners replaced it with a plastic sign glued to the door. Dr. Vidim has capitalised on

by selling copies of the sign at the hotel reception to guests, most of whom are students and backpackers, for 20 crowns (66 Approximately 70 million

the trend towards petty theft

foreign tourists visited the Czech republic last year, earning the country an estimated. \$1.5 billion in much-needed hard currency.

Although Prague remains a steady favourite with world travellers, the city is plagued by an accommodation shor-

tage. Many central hotels exploit. this by charging visitors over \$100 a night for a shabby 1950-style room.

The detention centre was originally a Franciscan convent before the Communists seized power in Czechoslovakia in 1948. The new government evicted the nuns and gave the building over to the widely-loathed secret police,

During the 1950s, the Communist authorities used it as a jail for long-term inmates. But in the years leading up to the "Velvet Revolution" they turned it into a holding pen for citizens suspected of "anti-state activity" prior to inter-

Demonstrators taking part in the waves of anti-government rallies in 1988 and 1989 were brought in droves to the convent's inner courtyard and made to stand for hours against the wall, Dr. Vidim said.

When the nuns regained possession of the convent after 1989, they found it destroyed by the STB's activities.

The secret police stored their weapons and listening equipment in the church next door and even had a shooting range downstairs," Dr. Vidim

"The building was in a dreadful state, completely wrecked, but the nuns didn't have any money for repairs.

"They had to decide whether to go into business and rent out the space or leave it in the dreadful state - so they rented our part of the convent to be used as a hotel.'

Dr. Vidim says the jail's clandestine nature has actually helped his hotel survive, as the rental agreement with the nuns stipulates there must be quiet in the building.

The kids can go downstairs, drink, kick up a racket and nobody can hear them. I don't even want to know what goes on down there. The nuns would be really shocked." The hotel management has

taken pains to see that guests do not feel too oppressed by their environment by distributing delicate dried flower arrangements in all the rooms. The Turkish-style, hole-in-

the-ground toilets originally designed to prevent prisoners from flushing away incriminating documents - have been ripped out.

Dr. Vidim also gave the whole building a new lick of

"It was all a bit grey," he said, "so we repainted everything in bright colours to make it friendly.

## U.S. scholar says Islam and democracy can be compatible

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy USLA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON - U.S. policy towards the Islamic world should encourage political participation and human rights, says John Esposito, a distinguished U.S. scholar on Islam.

Dr. Esposito is a professor of religion and international affairs and the director of the Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. He discussed "Islam and the West," during a March 1 press briefing held at the U.S. Information Agency's Foreign Press

Centre in Washington. "The whole theme of Islam and the West is one that will continue to be a major concern in terms of foreign and in terms of international relations for some time," he said.

Asked whether Islam and

democracy are compatible, Dr. Esposito said all religious traditions are capable of flexibility and change. Indeed, he said, a debate on this issue is now taking place throughout the Islamic world. This dynamic echoes what has occurred in other religious traditions throughout history, he said. "Notions of political participation are very strong in many parts of the Muslim world. There are many Muslims who in fact are advocating various forms of democracy and legitimating it... by

reinterpreting traditional concepts of consultation and consensus and reapplying them in the modern period, be said. "This debate... needs to be taking place on an even grander style in many Muslim societies, in order for the

kind of constructive transi-

tion to take place that I think

many would like to see," Dr. Esposito added. U.S. foreign policy should "foster... political participation and human rights," in the Islamic world, Dr. Esposito said. In doing so, he said, the United States must take

an even-handed approach. "We are very quick to want to implement democracy in some parts of the world and... seemingly quite silent in other parts of the world. I think an even-handed policy

is important," he said. The diversity of the Islamic

world and the role religion plays in each country must be taken into formulating U.S. foreign policy, Dr. Esposito

In looking at countries as diverse as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Malaysia, one sees "a variety of Muslim countries responding to the guestion of the role of religion in society in very diverse ways, not in a monolithic way," he noted. U.S. policy should respond

to this diversity, "rather than either seeing a monolithic threat or a monolithic salvation," he said.

'It's not our business to intervene or to promote certain brands of any ideology.... Different Muslim societies should be free to work out models that are appropriate to their populations," he stressed.

Western perceptions of Islam have often been coloured by conflicts rather than by the realities of the Islamic world and Muslims, Dr. Esposito said. Today, he said, some columnists and experts view Islam as the new threat to the West in the post-cold war era.

"If some look at Jaian as the new threat, there are many others who ser a trail of Muslims as constituing global ideological alternative to the West," he said. The West, he added, "tends to look at the Muslim world through the Arab/Middle East, even though two-thirds of the world's Muslims are in

Asia and Africa." Dr. Esposito rejected the popular use of the term "Islamic fundamentalism" as a sweeping characterisation of such diverse regimes as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Iran and

Libya.
"The problem is the term doesn't tell us much.... Compare the governments of Saudi Arabia and Libya: conservative monarchy - radical populist state. It tells us very little," he said.

Dr. Esposito stressed. however, that this lack of understanding does not solely lie with the West. "There are far more scholars in the West, for example, and experts who know Islam and the Muslim world than there are counterparts in the Muslim world who know the West and... Christianity and Judaism," he said.

## S. African army could have divided loyalties

By Anton Ferreira

JOHANNESBURG. -South Africa's white soldiers. long accustomed to defending apartheid, could soon be called upon to kill their own brothers and fathers to ensure that it dies.

Political leaders on all sides agree the republic's powerful defence force (SADF) holds the key to whether a rightwing revolt against majority

rule can succeed. In a country where warnings of Bosnia-style civil war have become commonplace. the loyalty of the post-apar-theid armed forces is under

the microscope. The acid test could come soon. Black and white members of the right-wing Freedom Alliance say they would rather fight than be ruled by the African National Congress (ANC) - almost certain to win elections next

month. Despite the dismantling of apartheid and the looming all-race poll, some ANC members still distrust SADF

"I wouldn't be surprised if the boers (Afrikaners) are planning a coup like the generals in Chile," said one ANC official detailed to work with an SADF officer.

"All the senior MK cadres are known to the boers now. They could take them all out and the ANC would be helpless," said the official, who did not want to be identified.

MK (Umkhonto We Sizwe - the spear of the nation) is the armed wing of the ANC which is to be incorporated into the defence forces. Local newspapers said last month the SADF had warned president F.W. de Klerk of the possibility of a coup by right-

wing officers. An SADF report to Mr. de Klerk had estimated that up to 60 per cent of troops might side with the right-wing rather than the government, the papers said.

The defence force comprises 250,000 mainly white part-time soldiers, and 70,000 mamly black troops led by white officers.

Bill Sass, a former SADF brigadier who is now a researcher with the Institute for Defence Policy think tank, wrote that the right-wing could make areas of the

country ungovernable.
"Even if one per cent of the part-time SADF members mutiny, it would form the basis of a strong group of guerrillas." he said, adding:

"Without the most strenuous of efforts and imaginative leadership, South Africa faces, at best, an IRA-style terror campaign. At worst, we face massive industrial sabotage and widespread blood-letting."

He said the permanent force would probably be loyal to whatever government was elected in April. But he cautioned that a clash between black soldiers and white para-military forces could have far-reaching con-

A senior ANC official said one of the first tasks of an ANC-controlled defence force would be to act against the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB), a heavily-armed neo-Nazi private army headed by Eugene Terre

Terre Blanche, who has said his followers would burnthe country down if they did not get self-rule in an independent state, regularly parades his 5,000-strong paramilitary force through the streets of conservative white

Wim Booyse, policy analyst at the Northern Transvaal Chamber of Industries, said sending the SADF against the AWB carried the seeds of a dangerous conflagration.

He said the current wave of bombings aimed at railway lines, power pylons and ANC offices was only the tip of the iceberg of potential rightwing resistance.

"These are peripheral, I don't think they are part of an organised campaign. I hope we never get to that, to the real thing," he said. Political analyst Mike

Hough of the University of

Pretoria said nobody really knew the potential for mutiny in the SADF. "We will need a showdown before the divisions become apparent," he said, adding that farm-based commando units were the most likely to

"The right-wing is saying that the security forces might not fight on their side in a conflict but will certainly not fight against them." Mr.

sympathise with the right-

Hough said. Mr. de Klerk and his Defence Minister Kobie Coetsee held a special meeting with reporters in February to say the SADF would obey the elected government of the

But they acknowledged that a "large" number of weapons had been withdrawn from white part-time soldiers whose loyalty was suspect.



# TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

**TENDER NUMBER 5/94** 

DIGITAL TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces

Tender No. 5/94 "Digital Transmission Equipment". This project is one of the main parts of the National Telecommunications Programme which aims to expand the Jordanian Telephone Network.

The above mentioned tender (on turn-key basis) consists of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the following:

SECOND: Containing the "Price Only" on cash basis offer

attend, on the same date.

A) (70) Optical-fiber links with a total length of 750 km. B) Optical Terminals using PDH & SDH technology

C) (13) Microware links including terminal & multiplex equipment

D) (13) Microware towers E) Supervisory equipment using TMN system.

In addition to that, spare parts, civil works needed for cables laying and towers' erection and training of TCC staff in operation and maintenance are required. Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their tenders in accordance with terms,

conditions and technical specifications contained in the tender documents. Tenderers are requested to submit in addition to price offer a financing proposal to finance the foreign currency portion of the contract to be awarded.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Tenderers are requested to submit their tenders in three separate sealed envelopes as follows: FIRST: Containing the technical offer

THIRD: Containing price plus financing offer i.e.: a) Price based on financing.

b) The financing offer Technical offers will be opened and evaluated first. Price and financing offers for technically acceptable offers will then be opened.

Tender documents may be obtained from Tender Section/TCC headquarters, Tower Building as from Tuesday, March 8, against a non-refundable fee of (1500) one-thousand and five hundred

Tenders, accompanied by a tender guarantee, are to be submitted in English not later than 12 a.m. local time on Saturday 18, June, 1994. The technical offers will be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who wish to

Note: The last date for purchasing the tender documents is April, 20, 1994.

Chairman of Special Tenders Committee' Ahmad Al-Nawawi



## TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM-

**TENDER NUMBER 4/94** 

DIGITAL SWITCHING EQUIPMENT The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces

Tender No. 4/94 "Digital Switching Equipment". This project is one of the main parts of the National Telecommunications Programme which aims

to expand the Jordanian Telephone Network.

SCOPE OF WORK The above mentioned tender (on turn-key basis) consists of design, supply, installation, testing

and commissioning of the following:

A) (21) Main exchanges B) (80) Remote Subscriber Units (RSU's)

C) One training model

D) One repair centre E) One network management centre

F) Related power, air-conditioning & fire protection.

In addition to that, spare parts and training of TCC staff on operation and maintenance are

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their tenders in accordance with terms, conditions and technical specifications contained in the tender documents. Tenderers are requested to submit in addition to price offer a financing proposal to finance and

IMPORTANT NOTE: Tenderers are requested to submit their tenders in three separate sealed envelopes as follows:

foreign currency portion of the contract to be awarded.

FIRST: Containing the technical offer SECOND: Containing the "Price Only" on cash basis offer

THIRD: Containing price plus financing offer i.e.:

b) The financing offer a) Price based on financing. Technical offers will be opened and evaluated first. Price and financing offers for technically acceptable offers will then be opened. Tender documents may be obtained from Tender Section/TCC headquarters. Tower Building as

from Tuesday, March 8, against a non-refundable fee of (2000) two-thousand Jordanian dinara Tenders, accompanied by a tender guarantee, are to be submitted in English not later than 18 a.m. local time on Wednesday 15, June, 1994.

The technical offers will be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who wish to attend, on the same date. Note: The last date for purchasing the tender documents is April, 20, 1994.

Chairman of Special Tenders Committee'

Ahmad Al-Nawawi

to cement, chemicals, clothes

and textiles, foodstuffs, paper

The GCC states have been

pressing the European Union.

Japan and other major indust-

rial powers to supply them with

technology to expand their in-

Most industrial investment

in the UAE after the Gulf war

came from the private sector.

while government activity con-

centrated on oil, gas, petroche-

micals and infrastructure pro-

The government has

announced attractive incen-

tives for industrial investment,

including soft loans and fi-

nance for project feasibility

The EIB said new projects

and markets needed to bay

growth in the UAE's industrial

projects approved by the bank stood at 18, compared with 21

in 1992. This is because the

market has become saturated

with such projects, and inves-

tors need new ideas, especially

high technology projects, and

A planning ministry report

showed trade still dominated

the UAE's non-oil economy.

Its contribution to the gross

domestic product (GDP) stood

at 13.3 billion dirhams (\$3.62

billion) in 1993, while the in-

dustrial sector stood at 10.8

billion dirhams (\$2.9 billion).

remains the dominant sector.

with a contribution to the GDF

of 51.3 billion dirhams (\$13.9

billion) in 1993, nearly 40 per

cent of the total.

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Despite diversification, oil

bigger markets," it said.

"Last year, the number of

dustrial sectors.

iects.

and other light products.

# FCC launches new expansion phase

a forcan Times sepf Reporter

The Telecomas Corporation Lanched another the 2000 in the table expansion. it a last it started in 1993. y and offers for the suppталішася заві соливing a finite witching and та поподантивать and thick, notice, which

cared to a fell newspapers Stanlag in ordindes inin it in the for a nighthe proand a factory to optioning as and the second officer of the  $\ldots \sim mN - 20.894.$ in dental wirdnie project.

to accompagate exchanges, resconfiguration and a training fals, a regar centic, a netcontinue man tocentre and may any of ministructure. that they are until and comto any terminantion, the feet sportly also include thoughly GCC stait on opthe figure a manuscrance as car as the supply of spare

are around transmission ... agreent project involves 750 a lomerres of infresoptic cable.

optical terminals, microwave links and towers and supervisory equipment as well as training for TCC staff in operation and maintenance and spare

Jordan froze all telecommunications expansion projects in 1989 in the face of a severe economic crisis. As a result, the TCC has failed to meet increasing demand for telephone lines as well as other communication facilities.

The projects, however, were revived in 1993, after the Kingdom managed to address its pressing foreign debt problems and stabilised the dinar, but, experts note, the TCC has to redouble its efforts to make up for the four years that were lost. The programme launched in 1993 is expected to cost nearly JD 200 million.

"You simply cannot order equipment and get it in a month's time," said a senior TCC official. "With the advances in technology, it takes as much as four years to order. build, install and commission new equipment of a level that would meet demands." TCC officials say that the

corporation would be able to meet nearly 80 per cent of all the country's needs by 1996. when the programme it launched in 1993 is expected to be completed.

In the meantime, most of the outstanding requests for new telephone lines in Amman's key business and residential areas would be met before the end of 1994, they say.

"But then, the demand for telephones is ever growing," commented the TCC official. "It is a typical feature of the Third World that catching up with outstanding requests is never possible since seeking telephone lines is a neverending process.' By the time the ongoing

programme is completed one in every 10 Jordanians would have a telephone line as opposed to one in every 15 that the country has today, according to TCC officials.

Partly to meet the immediate demands, the TCC has floated invitations to setting up cellular phones as part of a government concession after the related law - that gave the TCC a monopoly in telecommunications in Jordan - was amended.

TCC officials concede that cellular phones, which, by nature, are expensive, are not the precise answer to the pressing demands of Jordanians, but say that they could go some way in satisfying local needs.

Tenders for the cellular phone project close next month. If a quick decision is taken and the contract awarded, cellular phones could be operational by 1995.

TCC officials emphasise that cellular phones represent only a complementary service that has no reflection on the national expansion plan.

They say that the cellular phone contract would be similar to the radio paging system contract given to the private sector. Under this arrangement, the contractor has set up and operates the project at own cost after paying pre-determined fees to the TCC.

A TCC scheme floated in 1991 to attract private sector investment in telecommunications through a "buy, operate and transfer" scheme did not

## Innovative pay deal averts damaging German strike

HANOVER, Germany (R) -Employers and union leaders averted a potentially crippling strike in Germany's crucial engineering industry on Saturday after hammering out an innovative pay deal in 14 hours of talks.

The deal - combining a two per cent pay rise for seven months from June with schemes to secure jobs, reduce working hours and guarantee work for qualified trainees was given an immediate seal of approval by Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"The German government welcomes that agreement between the contract parties in the engineering and metal, in-dustry," Mr. Kohl's spokes-man Dieter Vogel said in a brief first reaction.

"The agreement headed off an industrial conflict," he added.

Mr. Kohl had warned repeatedly this week that a strike could dash hopes of recovery from Germany's worst postwar recession.

Strikes had been set to hit firms in the north German state of Lower Saxony from Monday after 41,000 members there voted by an overwhelming 92.2 per cent in favour of

The deal set on Saturday is expected to be accepted by the union's regional units across west Germany this week. It is also likely to set the tone for pay deals in other sectors.

Presenting the pay package to reporters after the all-night talks, Klaus Zwickel, head of the 3.2 million-strong I.G. Metall union, said the agreement would not have been possible without the strike vote and widespread token stoppages last month.

The employers would never have moved without the commitment of around 1.5 million token strikers, without the fantastic strike ballot vote in Lower Saxony and without the fighting spirit of our members," he said.

The employers had called for a wage freeze and a cut in holiday pay in order to slash costs by 10 per cent and restore firms' competitiveness.

I.G. Metall had originally sought a pay rise of up to six per cent, but - mindful of Germany's record four million unemployed — the union made clear from the outset it would accept a lower pay deal if job guarantees were offered.

"Our goal was a trade-off of job security against more money," Mr. Zwickel told a news conference. "As we achieved job security it was logical that we could not get as much money."
Employer leader Hans-

Joachim Gottschol, whose organisation Gesamtmetall had proposed the last-ditch talks in the northern city of Hanover, said firms had achieved their objective of warding off a new rise in costs.

'Companies will bear no additional costs from this deal in 1994," he told the news conference.

Wages would remain steady until June 1 before being raised by two per cent, for a 1.16 per cent rise on average in 1994 as a whole. The pay rise was offset by other cost savings. "No increase in costs means

costs have actually been cut if productivity rises are factored in," Mr. Gottschol added. But the most innovative element of Saturday's deal came

in allowing firms and workers flexibility on working hours. Economists have long called for greater flexibility in Germany's labour market, to allow

companies to adapt fast to changing trading conditions. Under one new option agreed by I.G. Metall, employees at a firm may work as little as 30 hours a week, compared with the usual 36, and be

given pay compensation for this, but not be offered job security, union vice-president Walter Riester said.

# UAE reports growth

showed.

Between 1991 and 1993, inlion), the reports said.

The 1991 figure accounted Council (GCC).

made the UAE's industrial sector the second biggest in the GCC after that of Saudi Arabia, where more than 4,000 factories have been set up at a

states have launched industrialisation campaigns to reduce their reliance on unstable oil earnings.

#### HOROSCOPE

a firmer grasp on the home scene where differences of opinion are growing at a rapid rate. Show that you are willing to listen to other points of view and go with the flow.

handling any problems you may have, whether private or other wise, and avoid trouble that may

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

new project you have in mind needs more research before you put it in operation. Allow time to engage in your favourite hobby

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may be thinking you are not progressing as you should, but keep plugging and you will gain your goal in a verybig way.

who has your best interest at heart. Make long-range plans for the days ahead and any projects you are involved in will be successful.

ber 22) Forget a worrisome affair and delve into something more plans to improve your social life

study facts and figures so you can advance in career affairs. Strive for increased harmony at home through the kindness of others. to December 21) Contact friends in the afternoon and discuss an

January 20) A perfect day for getting out to new activities and perking up your enthusiasm. Rea long week ahead.

most helpful to you now. Make this a most worthwhile day for all

with your reputation or you will be behind the eight ball.

#### Clinton doubles aid to Ukraine

WASHINGTON (R) - President Chnton said Friday he was doubling to \$700 million the amount of assistance effered to Ukraine and said the former Soviet republic was moving toward a folgger role in

Mr. Cinten announced the increuse in response to Ukrame' agreement to rid itself victorieur vienpens efter months of resistance by Christie's mathemetit, which had Lift Kiev in diplomatic.

He also praised what he said was progress in introducing market reform after signing several agreements with Ukrainian President, Leonid Kravchuk and meeting a delegation. which included Olympic champion figure skater Oskana

"Over the last balf year, I have come to have higher appes for the prespect of a full fraintail partnership in a mocratic Liurope," Mr. Clina esaid. "Labo know what a ry difficult economic time Chrame is going through and I the beginnings of a real At to restructure the ecomany and I believe the United t tes should support that,"

Mr. Kraychuk described mome conditions two years atter (l'aramels) independence. from the Seviet Union as Very health on a phased U.S. calla who depre the sangple high against a malact ece-

We are a authord that we had the middle moved at this of the control America " he

# Japanese shun foreign rice, cite chemicals, mice and mites

TOKYO (R) - Japanese consumers are turning their noses up at purchasing foreign rice, citing safety concerns following reports that imports were contaminated with chemicals or creatures such as mice and mites.

Almost one out of two consumers polled in Tokyo and Osaku this week said they would not purchase foreign rice for safety reasons, the daily Mainichi Shimbun reported Saturday. Only 11 (5.5 per cent) of the

200 respondents to the poll

said they had actually tried foreign rice. They were divided in their evaluation — half said they noticed no taste difference

the other half said it tasted

Of 189 people who had vet to buy foreign rice, a total of 96, or 48 per cent, said they had no intention of doing so for fear the rice was contaminated with agricultural chemicals or creatures, the poll said.

A controversy over the safety of foreign rice erupted this week when a communist legislator told parliament that Japanese millers recently found dead mice and cockroaches in a pioneering shipment of imported Thai rice.

"These things don't become public because people tend to panic, but it's happening all over Japan," said Yuko Takasaki, a member of the upper

Apart from mice and cockroaches, she said bird bones. rubber band, strings, cigarette butts. pebbles and chalk had been found in Thai rice distributed to grain milling factor-Both the agriculture ministry

and the food agency handling imports denied anyone had found mice and cockroaches but said some foreign objects such as pebbles turned up in the That rice. Tokyo fought long and tena-

ciously to protect its politically powerful farmers by barring all rice imports, only to be forced late last year to give ground.
A devastating 1993 domestic harvest obliged the govern-

ment to make emergency rice

#### from home-grown rice while Taiwan raises ceiling for foreign funds in bourse

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan raised the ceiling for foreign investment in its stock market to \$10 billion on Saturday in a reform expected to attract a new flow of funds into one of Asia's

largest bourses. The ceiling for total investment by foreign institutions, which were allowed to begin investing directly when Taiwan opened its market in early 1991, was lifted to \$7.5 billion

from \$5 billion. The central bank also set a, ceiling of \$2.5 billion on overseas fundraising by Taiwanese investment trust firms. Previously, the firms had not faced

a formal ceiling. Deputy central bank governor Yu Chen said the reform

would allow foreign funds to account for about six per cent of stock market capitalisation, roughly in line with curbs imposed by South Korea on its market and near the proportion of the Japanese stock mar-

ket held by foreigners. The central bank, concerned that fund inflows could destabilise financial markets and hurt exporters by pushing up the value of the Taiwan dollar, had resisted heavy political pressure to raise the investment

ceiling for several months. The Securities and Exchange Commission, which wants to make Taiwan a regional financial centre as the island prepares to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and

Trade (GATT), had pressed for a ceiling as high as \$20 billion.

'We welcome foreign funds for long-term investment, but not those for short-term profittaking," Mr. Yu told a news conference.

He said fund inflows could push annual M2 money supply growth up to 16.7 per cent and the central bank was prepared to prevent this by absorbing liquidity in the money market to keep growth in a range of 10

to 15 per cent. Foreign institutions have so far received approval to bring \$4.71 billion into Taiwan, and have actually remitted \$3.36 billion. Domestic investment trust firms have been approved

to remit \$1.53 billion and have brought in \$1.1 billion.

Foreign fund managers and securities analysts said the reform was likely to trigger a new wave of foreign interest in Taiwan's market, which soared 80 per cent last year although it has fallen back since then amid heavy profit-taking.

"A lot of foreigners are still waiting to enter Taiwan and this is the signal for them to come," said Ben Lee at Wardley James Capel.

Several analysts said selling pressure remained likely to cut short any near-term rally sparked by the central bank's announcement. The market's weighted index closed at

#### brokers expect selling between 5,800 and 6,000. But with economic growth

5,671.46 on Saturday, and

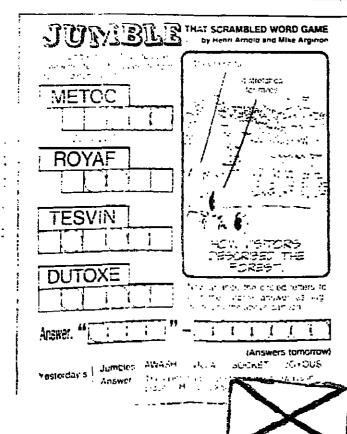
officially forecast at 6.2 per cent this year and corporate earnings per share expected to rise by around 20 per cent. some analysts say the index could top 7,000 points by year's end.

The central bank's announcement sent the Taiwan dollar surging more than 10 cents to close at an eight-month high of 26.3200 to the U.S. dollar from 26,4280 on Friday.

Foreign exchange dealers said the Taiwan dollar could remain under upward pressure unless the central bank intervened in the market.

# .He detter half By Harris \*To improve your pucker power, pick

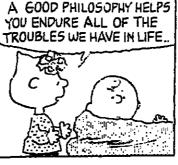
up a bowling ball with your lips 100 times a day..."



#### Peanuts









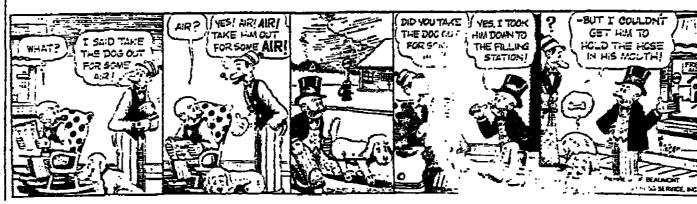
#### **Andy Capp**







#### Mutt'n'Jeff



#### in non-oil industries such as farming and tourism abu dhabi (AFP) — A remained much lower. Industries were still limited

surge in investment since the Gulf war has boosted the nonoil industrial sector in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as it presses ahead with a drive to diversify its economy and cushion the impact of low oil prices, official reports have

dustrial units increased to 1,528 from 1,225, and investments rose to 4.7 billion dirhams (\$1.28 billion) from 4.2 billion dirhams (\$1.14 bil-"Initial estimates showed

that the non-oil industrial sector grew by 9.5 per cent in 1993, nearly double its growth in 1992," the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) said in its weekly bulletin. "The high growth was due to an increase in demand and a 23 per cent rise in industrial investments after the Gulf war."

A planning ministry report said the value added in the non-oil industrial sector surged to 10.5 billion dirhams (\$2.86 billion) in 1993, from 9.4 billion dirhams (\$2.56 billion) in

for around 17 per cent of the total value added in the non-oil industrial sector in the sixnation Gulf Cooperation Officials said the growth

cost of nearly \$30 billion. The UAE and other Gulf

Investment in other sectors

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 6, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation GENERAL TENDENCIES: ber 22) A good day to visit Use your intuitive faculties to get 'riends and relatives for mutual

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Follow only accepted rules for

A good day to be with influential persons who can help you in your line of endeavour. Take no chances with your health espe-cially during this time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A for peace of mind.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Listen to advice of a family tie

VIRGO: (August 22 to Septem-

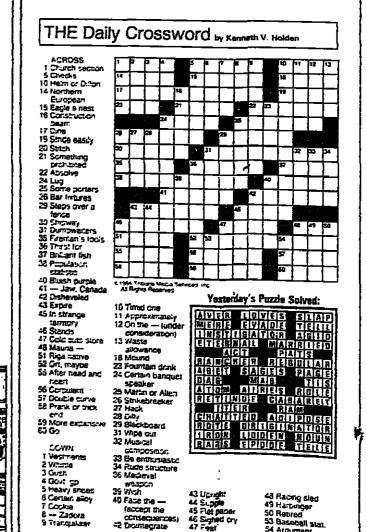
enjoyment. Be more precise in handling your personal affairs and you will get all you deserve. LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-

practical and profitable. Make by going out with loved one. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 important plan you have in mind. Allow time for recreational activities on this day. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

lax at home tonight for you have AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listening to the suggestions of an expert can be

those who reside with you. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Follow your hunches early in the day because they are likely to he off target later. Take no risks



# Canadian economy records in 4 years best performance

OTTAWA (AP) - The Canadian economy turned in its best performance in four years during 1993, led by exports and a modest revival in consumer and business spending, the government has said.

Statistics Canada, the government's statistical agency, said the economy grew by 2.4 per cent, up from a meagre 0.7 per cent in 1992, to match the pre-recession growth rate in 1989. That's still a far cry from the healthy growth rates of four to six per cent during the mid-1980s.

"There's a bit of progress," said George Saba, chief economist at Montreal Trust. "But the numbers are not spec-

Mr. Saba said the economy is still growing too slowly to bring down the unemployment rate which averaged 11.2 per cent in 1993. The rate is ex-

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pected to remain above 10 per cent through 1995.

Growth for the entire year was buoyed by a surge in the last three months as the economy expanded by 0.9 per cent - a compound annual rate of 3.8 per cent.

The economy shrank in both 1990 and 1991 during the second worst recession since

The 1993 numbers indicate. it was finally on a more solid

"Merchandise exports were the principal driving force, jumping 10.2 per cent in volume," Statistics Canada

That's been hinged on a strong U.S. economy, which surged ahead at 7.5 per cent double the annual Canadian rate in the fourth quarter.

produced goods and services In addition to exports, consumer spending in Canada was

### Saudi supermarket chain reports \$22m loss

RIYADH (R) - The Saudi supermarket chain Panda Company has said its 1993 accumulated losses stood at 82.3 million Saudi riyals (\$22 million) due mostly to the expenses of a restructuring plan. "The losses are due to the expenses of the restructuring in addition to allocations for expired merchandise and bad debts." the company said in a statement issued in Riyadh. It said a new board of directors, appointed at the end of 1993 and headed by Prince Al Walid Bin Talal, has launched a restructuring drive, including expansion plans int he kingdom. The new board had in January, agreed to raise the company's capital to 900 miltion rivals (\$240 million).

# Iran deputies debate budget, warn of economic paralysis

lators Saturday started debating how to share out budget cuts forced by low oil prices, with warnings that the economy could be paralysed if too much hard cash was allotted to repaying foreign debts.

In a separate move, the central bank announced new import curbs and said it would not devalue the riyal any time

The market was not impressed. The dollar did not budget from the 2,480-2,490 riyal range on the open market after central bank governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli's interview was broadcast on Tehran radio early in the afternoon, dealers

The members of parliament's debate on expenditures for the Iranian year starting March 21 follows one in January on revenues. At the end of that debate, parliament shaved the oil income forecast by the government by 14 per cent to \$10.15 billion because of low oil prices.

Parliament in January earmarked \$1.6 billion of that revenue to repay part of Iran's

development projects which were fed in the current year from an estimated 12 billion in

On Saturday, deputies debated how to spend any extra cash in case oil prices rose and Iran earned more than \$10.15

They finally voted that it should be divided equally between debt repayments and development projects.

"If everything goes to repay-ments it means that many projects will be paralysed. It means many problems for society, an increase in unemployment." deputy speaker of parliament Hassan Rohani said. But deputy Hossein Fattahi

said any extra revenue should go towards repaying debts "for the sake of the country's pre-Head of Plan and Budget Organisation Massoud Roghani Zanjani, speaking for the

debt repayment. "We have made good headway in rescheduling foreign debts and we do not face any

government, argued against

allocating any extra funds for

Mr. Zanjani said diverting too much money to repaying foreign debts "would have repercussions. Factories will shut down, unemployment will in-

crease, foreign exchange rates will go up. The rival hit an all-time low of 2,700 per dollar last week before a central bank announcement of impending intervention firmed it to about

Mr. Adeli told the radio the riyal's sharp fall last week was due to substantial demand by government-affiliated industries and by importers worned that the currency might weaken further.

Reiterating regulations which have sometimes been allowed to lapse because of shortage of hard cash in state coffers, Mr. Adeli said state industries must buy their dollar needs from state banks and all imports must be registered with the commerce ministry.

The central bank would adopt measures so that all imports would be handled through banks from March 21 and would provide hard cash in

the next two weeks to pay a backlog of letters of credit opened for priority imports, he

"I assure ... those importers who have panicked that, God willing, we will provide the foreign exchange they need at the current bank rate," Mr.

The budget debate is expected to last about a week. The budget is nominally balanced and its overall figure is 69.8 trillion riyals (\$39.9 billion at the official rate), 28 per cent more than the current year's approved figure.

Part of the increase is due to completion of a devaluation of the rival announced a year ago. Some \$3.8 billion of essential imports in the current year were shielded from the devaluation to cushion its impact. But next year everything will be counted in the floating rate and the government pays rivals subsidies where necessary.

About 60 per cent of the overall budget is that of state banks and companies. The rest 32.3 trillion riyals (\$18.5) billion) - is the government's

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banker was wrong in not mak-

A red-faced Chernomyrdin roared back at Mr. Gerashchenko: "If we want to have a weak state, then go and give out money. If not, do not. Future Russian generations will never forgive us if we leave

Gerashchenko said what he said today a year ago. But now, the time is out," Mr. Chernomyrdin added. Mr. Chernomyrdin is not the first top government official Mr. Gerashchenko has

The central banker spent most of 1993 quarrelling with former finance minister Boris Fyodorov, a tough monetarist who resigned in January saying he was not going to spend the rest of his life fighting Mr. Gerashchenko.

Mr. Gerashchenko advocates support for ailing industries. He also backs cheap credits for former Soviet republics to finance their imports from Russia. Western economists say lax central bank policies are behind two-digit monthly inflation in Russia.

out," he said.

#### \$8 billion in foreign debt particular problems in this re-China's 1994 economic targets may be unachievable 'ideals'

BELIING (AFP) — China's overheated economy reached its cyclical peak in 1993 but official growth and inflation targets for 1994 may still turn out to be unachievable "ideals," the State Statistical

Bureau (SSB) has said. China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 13.4 per cent last year to 3.14 trillion yuan (\$361 billion), the highest rate since 1985, while industrial output totalled 1.41 trillion yuan, up 21.1 per cent on 1992, SSB Director General Zhang Sai quoted the bureau's 1993

communique as saying.

Investment in fixed assets jumped 50.6 per cent over 1992 to 1.18 trillion yuan while the amount of money in circulation soared\_35.3 per cent to 586.5 billion yuan, fuelling retail price increases of 13 per cent nationally.

The cost of living meanwhile rose 14.7 per cent nationwide, with the rate for the 35 biggest cities at 19.6 per cent compared with 13.7 per cent in the countryside, the communique

But the bureau chief noted that per capita income had on the whole kept ahead of inflation with real increases of 10.2 per cent in cities to 2.337 yuan and 3.2 per cent in rural areas

to 921 yuan. However, he acknowledged, rapidly increasing prices had "led to the decline of living standards in some house-

Direct foreign investment continued to soar, with \$110.9 billion contracted, up 90.7 per cent, and \$25.76 billion utilised, up 130 per cent, the SSB report said, adding imports jumped 29 per cent to \$104.4 billion while exports rose only eight per cent to \$91.8 billion.

The report revealed that China's foreign exchange reserves hit 21.2 billion yuan, up 1.76 billion on the end of 1992. Funds deposited in the Bank of China, the country's main foreign exchange bank, were not included.

Mr. Zhang said the main problems facing the economy were steep price rises, together with excessive fixed-asset investment and bottle-necks caused by the failure of infrastructure to meet the demands of high growth. Transport facilities could only meet 60 per cent of demand, he said.

He said he believed GDP growth and inflation had both hit "the peak of the current cycle," but indicated they would remain relatively high for some time and gave little

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sign of government resolve to bring them down.

Warning that any dramatic drop — like that accompanying the three-year austerity drive launched in 1988 to cool the economy - would have harmful effects, Mr. Zhang said government targets of under 10 per cent for 1994 inflation and of nine per cent for GDP growth were "only ideals."

"There might be some slight change of one to two per cent" in GDP growth, he said, while the real target for inflation was to maintain it "at the bearable limit of households." He expressed confidence,

however, that the annualised figure would not equal the 17.8 per cent or 18.5 per cent ex-perienced in 1988 and 1989, while noting that monthly year-on-year rises had already reached a comparable level.

On targetted money supply for 1994, Mr. Zhang also declined to give a figure.
"This doesn't add up to a

very convincing programme — it doesn't sound like a government ready to deal with things whatever the cost," said a Western diplomat, expressing surprise at the government's unwillingness to reveal where it hoped the economy would be in several months.

### Singapore increases spending

SINGAPORE (AFP) - The government will spend 16.7 bil-lion dollars (\$10.5 billion) in the fiscal year beginning on April 1, an increase 2: 19 per cent from the figure \* s year. Finance Minister Richard Hu

Mr. Hu said that 10.5 billion dollars (\$6.6 billion) would be for recurrent expenses and the remaining 6.2 billion dollars (\$3.9 billion), 37 per cent of the total, for new development projects.

The main part of the development budget will go towards the provision of social and economic infrastructure," he said, outlining the government's 1994 budget proposals.

Mr. Hu said the development expenditure would fund several new hospitals and schools, land reclamation. public housing and improve-ment to the public transportation system and capital grants

to statutory boards. "Singapore's philosophy of economic management is that the government's role is not to surplant the private sector but to help its development so as to provide Singaporeans with a good life," he said.

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# Russian premier slams central bank loss over inflation TRADED FARM CLOSING FRICE FRIC

also up 1.6 per cent over all of

1993 and business investment

for the year was up 2.3 per cent. Mr. Saba said the con-

sumer spending was financed

by drawing down savings or

taking out loans. He added

that incomes and employment

have both been growing too

slowly to produce a sharp in-

crease in consumer confidence.

The numbers are prelimin-

ary estimates and will be re-

Economic growth is mea-

sured by the value of all goods

and services produced by the

economy, minus the impact of

inflation the real gross domes-

Canada estimated that Canada

worth dollars 710 billion (\$530

billion at current exchange

At current prices, Statistics

vised later.

MOSCOW (R) - Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, in his first known public attack on central bank boss Viktor Gerashchenko, said Friday the conservative ing fighting inflation a top

Mr. Gerashchenko, who worries more about falling production than restoring confidence in the rouble, told a government meeting that inflation was a "lesser evil" than mass unemployment.

them a weak country.
"It would make sense if Mr.

Mr. Gerashchenko had no magic solution to Russia's economic troubles. "Our economy has got into a stagflation trap And there will be no easy way

#### Vietnam seeks private infrastructure investment

HANOI (R) - Vietnam, try, government ministers said. needing billions of dollars to told foreign businessmen it would need private capital as well as aid to do the job.

The vehicle for such investment — especially for costly projects like power plants could be build-operate-transfer (BOT) contracts in which a foreign company installs a plant, runs it for a while then turns it over to the host counVietnam issued a decree last

November adding BOT contracts to the forms of foreign investment permitted and setting out regulations.

Minister presented a list of 12 priority projects — without price tags — they said would be suitable for BOT investment at a seminar in Hanoi attended by about 100 foreign

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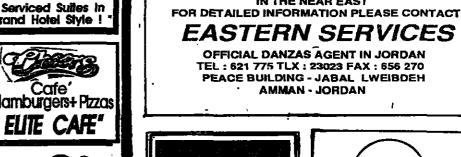
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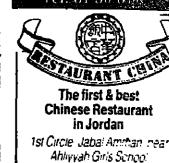












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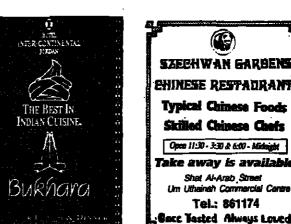
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# Black, white conservatives dash | Serbs io join South African election

Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and white separatist Constand Viljoen signed up at the last moment to contest South Africa's multi-racial elections, but said they were on!y keeping their options

In the first sign of a crack in a right-wing boycott of the April 26-28 democracy vote. they each paid deposits of 70,000 rand (\$20,000) late Friday to reserve a place on the iballot paper.

An electoral official said they had until 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) Wednesday to confirm their participation by nominating candidates for the country's first all-race parliament.

Mr. Viljoen, leader of the Amkaner Volksfront (AVF), said the Volksraad, an rebel Afrikaner parliament, would decide at a meeting in Pretoria Saturday whether his Freedom Front Party would actually stand in the elections.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Sue Voss, told reporters at the .Johannesburg; office of the Independent Electoral Commission that its participation would depend mainly on talks with the ANC Tues-

Inkatha's Central Committee decided at a six-hour meeting in the Zulu capital of Ulundi to back Mr. Buthelezi's istration pending further nego-tiations or international mediation on its constitutional de-

Inkatha said mediation should cover "the constitution and rationalising the electoral process and timetables to translate constitutional agreements into a fair and free election in which all parties can compete on an equal footing."

Chairman Frank Mdlalose, arriving at the electoral commission's offices three hours before the midnight deadline for registration, told reporters: 'We will actively start campaigning as of this minute."
But Ms. Voss said a final

decision whether to contest the elections would depend on meetings with the right-wing Freedom Alliance Monday and the African National Congress Tuesday.

The ANC had cleared the way for Inkatha to register by formally accepting Mr. Buthelezi's demand for international mediation on his constitutional demands.

Mr. Buthelezi and other Freedom Alliance leaders want guarantees of strong regional powers in a post-apartheid South Africa, Mr. Buthelezi seeks constitutional recognition of the Zulu king, while Mr. Viljoen demands a right to

white self-determination. Five small groups took advantage of an extended deadline for registration, mak-

Green Party and a sports party with the acronym Soccer.

African Democratic Party, a

President F.W. De Klerk welcomed the Inkatha decision to register provisionally, but told party supporters at a rally in Durban: "I would have preferred them to register full

ANC spokeswoman Gill Marcus welcomed the decision and said the ANC was confident that a settlement including Mr. Buthelezi's Zulu-based party could be negotiated with international help.

But she said that the election ending almost 350 years of white minority rule in South Africa would go ahead as scheduled on April 26-28. "The election date won't be changed," she said.

Mr. Buthelezi said in Cape Town Thursday it would be unfair to expect Inkatha to catch up now without postponing the vote becaue other parties had a campaign lead of over two months.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela and the South Africa government Saturday ruled out a postponement of the first allrace elections next month, setting the scene for a new showdown with the right-wing. The looming row over the

date for South Africa's historic elections muted any optimism over the last-minute registration for the poll.

of the election date: "That is a date which is fixed and cannot

# blockade U.N.

#### convoys in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) - Serb forces Saturday blockaded U.N. convoys around Bosnia, including an aid column trying to reach the Muslim town of Maglaj which the United Nations wants to make a safe

Apart from the Maglaj convoy, another aid mission heading for Sarajevo was stopped at Hadzici nearby by an orga-nised protest of Serb women and children.

Five U.N. convoys belonging to Canada, France and the Netherlands were blocked at Zvornik by Serbs who objected to their peacekeepers or complained that the trucks would damage roads.

In Maglaj three civilians were killed by Serb artillery attacks during the night while collecting food dropped from the air, Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said.

Maglaj, which has received no outside aid by road since October, has become Bosnia's deadliest fire zone with scores of casualties since ceasefire took hold in Sarajevo and central Bosnia this month.

Serb forces stalled the convoy in defiance of a threat by U.N. Commander General Sir Michael Rose to use force if necessary to get the trucks to

Kris Janowski, an official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in Sarajevo: "The bottom line is that they are not letting this convoy in and they are making all kinds All three sides have harassed

convoys during the 23-month war since Bosnian Serbs turned on Muslims and Croats after they voted for independence from former Yugoslavia.

But aid officials have blamed Serbs for most of the disruption in supplies of aid and food to almost three million victims of the fighting.
The U.N. Security Council

voted unanimously Friday night to consider adding Maglaj, Vitez and Mostar to its list of safe havens under the protection of NATO warplanes. It also demanded that Serbs Muslim targets in defiance of the U.N. no-fly zone over Bos-Although the Sarajevo ceas-

Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) to neutralise the artillery it used to kill 10,000 people in the Bosnian capital. The council asked Secretary General Boutros Ghali to grenades. appoint a civilian official to "It is obvious that there are coordinate the restoration of

Sarajevans repair their grenade-shattered roof in a Muslim

neighbourhood of the beseiged Bosnian capital Sarajevo (AFP

ity and water. The BSA, obliged to slacken its armed stranghold on much of Bosnia, has continued to test the resolve of U.N. peacekeepers for any sign of

city services including electric-

lift their siege of Sarajevo, which is still surrounded

although a threat of NATO air

strikes this month forced the

A U.N. spokesman said five Howitzers the BSA sneaked back into a 20 kilometre artillery exclusion zone around Sarajevo were removed early Saturday at U.N. insistence. A sixth was expected to be withdrawn during the day.

Peacekeepers' spokesman Major Rob Annink, asked if the Serbs were trying the U.N. patience, told reporters: "I agree. It looks like that."

NATO jets drew blood Monday when they shot down four Serb warplanes bombing

efire is intact, the U.N. has observed an increase in the calibre of random firing in and around Sarajevo with use of mortars and rocket-propelled

still some heavy weapons not under control," Maj. Annink said. "That is one of the reasons we need more troops in the area to deploy between the warring factions...If we are not in control in the next few days, the ceasefire might col-

Bosnian Muslim and Croat negotiators met at the United States embassy in Vienna Friday for a "get-acquainted" ses-sion ahead of up to 10 days of talks on forming a federation.

They are due to settle the details of a U.S.-brokered accord to establish a Croat-Muslim federation — with the hope of ending nearly two years of fighting — under the auspices of U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy, Charles Redman.

# Tulip bulbs return to a **Dutch menu**

SCHAGEN, Netherlands (AP) - A restaurant here is recalling the bitter days of the Nazi occupation by reviving tulip bulb soup. Variations of the soup sustained many starving Dutch citizens during the "hunger winter" of 1944 when German occupiers stripped the nation of foodstuffs to send to Germany. The bulbs of the Netherlands' national flower have a high starch content, making them an ideal potato substitute. Survivors of the Nazi occupation remember them for their bitter taste. "I haven't tasted them but my parents ate them during the war and say they taste terrible, very bitter," said Liesbeth Van Der Horst, a spokeswoman for the Dutch Resistance Museum, which features an exhibit on the tulip's uses as food during occupation. Chef Rob Pauv at the Igesz Restaurant in this northwestern city will serve up his tulip bulb soup later this month for the Dutch Year of the Tulip marking the 400th year since the bulbs were imported from Turkey. Mr. Pauv is keeping mum on his recipe, but said Friday that staff at the restaurant say his creation is delicious. "Really it is just a case of the recipes being used to disguise the taste of the bulbs," said Ms. Van Der Horst.

#### **New Biosphere 2** crew to kick off habitation

ORACLE, Ariz. (AP) -Biosphere 2 is embarking on what its operators hope will be the start of 98 years of continuous habitation in the domed ecological laboratory - and the recovery of its image as serious science. Nearly six months after the first eight-person crew ended a twoyear stay inside the lab, the project has been redesigned. Beginning Sunday, a crew of five men and two women will rotate in and out of the threeacre glass-and-steel bubble and its 10 apartments. The private, for-profit project is supposed to run like a remote research station. Space biospheres ventures, based 58 kilometres (35 miles) northeast of Tucson, operates the (150 million experiment paid for largely by Texas billionaire Edward Bass. It was designed to last 100 years as a self-sustaining laboratory replicating earth's environment with a rain forest, ocean, savannah, desertturned-chaparral, marsh and

#### Cat blacks out Ho Chi Minh City

HANOI (R) - A cat blacked out Ho Chi Minh City's television programmes for 10 minutes when it jumped onto a mains power switch and shortcircuited the station's electricity supply, the trade union newspaper Lao Dong reported Saturday. The cat's fate in Thursday night's incident was not known.

#### Feline herolne. of Los Angeles quake dies

LOS ANGELES (R) - Tif-

fany, the cat found alive trapped in a closet 41 days after the Los Angeles earthquake, died Friday from the effects of malnutrition. "It's very tragic," said Maureen Beaman at the veterinary clinic where Tiffany, a mixed Persian breed. was being treated. "We were all very close to her. We Were pulling for her. She was actually improving, but then suddenly she died, poor baby," Ms. Beaman said. Tiffany was taken to the Santa Clarita Valley animal clinic Sunday by her owner, Laurie Booth, after being found Sunday in a neighbour's outside storage closet where she had hid, terrified, in the Jan. 17 earthquake. The cat was trapped when Ms. Booth's neighbours unwittingly locked her in the closet. Ms. Beaman said Ms. Booth was distraught over the loss of her beloved pet. "She is terribly, terribly, upset. Extremely upset," Ms. Beaman said. The feline weighed about eight pounds (four kg) before the earthquake but emerged as a bundle of skin and bone, having survived without food or water and living purely on her own body fat and protein. "She died of malnutrition, purely and simply," Ms. Beaman said. "We were feeding her intravenously and giving her liquid cat food, but unfortunately it was too late," she

#### Mr. Mandela said Saturday ing a total of 29 planning to proposal for its provisional regcontest the polls. They included a Muslim party, an

Angola reports army advances in north

state rau a Thursday reported advances by government forces around the northern town of Saurimo in Lunda Sul pro-

"In Lenda Sul... government forces have been liberating villages," the radio said. "Two villages under rebel control for more than a year were recently liberated. Saurimo is some 200

frees top

dissident

BEIJING (R) - China re-

leased its most famous dissi-

dent Saturday after his deten-

tion, for more than 24 hours.

threatened to scuttle a key visit

to Beijing by U.S. Secretary of

Wei Jingsheng, the father of China's fledgling Democracy Movement, called an associate

Saturday from a country north

of Beijing to say he was now

free and expected to be home

President Bill Clinton had

expressed strong disapproval

over Mr. Wei's detention, part

of a nationwide sweep against

dissidents in advance of Mr.

Christopher's visit which be-

will not renew China's key most

favoured nation (MFN) trad-

ing privilege in June unless

Beijing improves its human

rights record, threatening bil-

Mr. Christopher's visit is

seen as a last-ditch attempt to

force the Chinese to make con-

cessions that will let Mr. Clin-

keep them from talking to Mr.

Clinton's top human rights

official, who was in China to

prepare for the Christopher

Mr. Wei, who became a

potent symbol of China's lack

of freedom of expression dur-

ing 14 years in prison, had

bluntly told Assistant Secret-

ary of State for Human Rights

and Humanitarian Affairs

John Shattuck the United

States had to be tough on

China to get progress.

visit, dissidents said.

"We strongly disapprove of

lions of dollars in trade.

Nir. Clinton has warned be

late in the day.

gins on March 11.

ton extend MFN.

State Warren Christopher.

China

kilometres from diamondproducing areas in the Cuango Valley, which UNITA rebels have held since expelling the government from most of Lunda Norte province in late 1992.

UNITA has been selling diamonds from areas under its control in Lunda Norte to buy arms. An industry source in Luanda said he thought up to \$200 million worth of di-

in northwest England.

amonds leaked out of UNITA areas in 1993.

State radio said international relief flights to the besieged northern city of Malange resumed Friday after being suspended following rebel shelling Wednesday and Thursday.

The government-held town has been under a UNITA siege since the start of last year. Aid sources confirmed the report.

ations across Britain Saturday to

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

LONDON (R) - Anti-nuclear activists blockaded the entr-

protest a court decision allowing a giant nuclear waste reprocessing plant to start operating. The small, peaceful

demonstrations at the three English and two Scottish plants

were marred by an accident in which a protester was hit by a

security van and taken to hospital. The man was not thought to

be seriously hurt after the incident at Torness plant near

Edinburgh where protesters formed a human chain to block

the main entrance for two hours. A British judge Friday

rejected a request by the environmental group Greenpeace

and Lancashire County Council to order a public enquiry into

the £2.8 billion (\$4.17 billion) Thorp installation at Sellafield

Ukraine warheads to cross Russian border

MOSCOW (R) - The first 60 nuclear warheads taken from

strategic missiles in Ukraine are on their way to neighbouring

Russia for dismantling and will cross the border Sunday, the

official ITAR-TASS news agency said. TASS quoted a senior

Defence Ministry source as saying this was the first step in

implementing an agreement signed in January between Ukraine, Russia and the United States to destroy the 1,600

former Soviet warheads on Ukrainian soil. TASS reported

earlier that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who is

visiting Washington, had announced the nuclear convoy's

departure at a Friday news conference. Interfax News Agency

said the nuclear cargo left the railway station of the Ukrainian

city of Pervomaisk Friday evening and reached Poltava region

Saturday. It said a second cargo was expected to be sent to

Russia from the Ukrainian town of Khmelnitsky later this

5 U.K. nuclear plants blockaded

## Comedy actor John Candy dies

Richard Carter, spokesman for President F.W. De Klerk,

told Reuters: "We are com-

pletely committed to April 26

comments on Friday night.

also repeated his rejection of

the white right-wing demand

Mr. Viljoen is expected to

receive a stormy reception

Saturday at a meeting of the AVF leadership in Pretoria.

Radical AVF members have

booed him down in the past

when he suggested taking part

in the election and newspapers

have speculated that the white

Mr. Viljoen registered for

the poll Friday night under the

Front, saying he had not had time to consult the AVF on the

Fellow Alliance member

President Lucas Mangope of

Bophuthatswana told reporters

Saturday he might register for

the poll Monday. The formal deadline was Friday midnight

but ANC leaders have said this

Asked about moving the

election date, Gen. Mangope

said: "The only logical thing

would be to extend it. The

South African government

could convene parliament to

Alliance demand for interna-

tional mediation of outstand-

The ANC has agreed to an

could be extended.

change the date."

right could soon split.

for a Volkstaat.

Mr. Mandela, in separate

LOS ANGELES (AP) — John Candy, the lovable, overweight comic actor who rose from television skits to starring roles in some of Hollywood's most successful comedies, has died of a heart attack on a Mexican movie set. He was 43.

The star of Uncle Buck, Planes, Trains And Automobiles and many other films was found dead Friday in his residence during filming of the Western comedy Wagons East. near Durango, Mexico, said Gary Goodman, the film's pro-

Hector Partida, spokesman for the Durango State Government, said Candy had a heart attack in his sleep and was dead when paramedics arrived.

The production of Wagons East was suspended. Candy played the drunken wagonmaster of an 1986s prairie schooner heading the wrong way. Said co-star Richard Lewis:

"Everyone should know that the night before he died, myself and (co-star) Robert Picardo were blessed to be in a scene with John Candy which showed all of us his genius." It was unclear if the film

could be completed. Goodman Born and reared in Toronto,

Candy co-starred in last year's Cool Runnings, a hit film about the Jamaican bobsled

He appeared in the 1991 drama Only The Lonely and the comedies Stripes, National Lampoon's Vacation. Splash and The Great Outdoors.

#### S. Korea, U.S. to hold nuclear talks SEOUL (R) - A team of senior U.S. officials will visit South Korea to discuss ways to resolve the long-running dispute over North Korea's nuclear development programme, a Seoul Foreign Ministry

spokesman said Saturday. The spokesman said the team, led by assistant U.S. Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, will arrive in Seoul next Thursday for three days of talks with South Korean offi-

Mr. Gallucci will meet Kim Sam-Hoon, special senior advisor to Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo for nuclear affairs, the spokesman said. Mr. Gallucci was also expected to meet

"The talks would be focused on measures to jointly cope with North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development programme," the spokesman said, without elaborating.

Agency said the two govern-ment would review their positions on the North Korean nuclear issue and reconfirm a proposed inter-Korean exchange of special envoys Thursday, a precondition of a third round of talks between Washington and Pyongyang. Mr. Gallucci and North

The domestic Yonhan News

Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju led their delegations in the two rounds of high-level talks last summer, which stalled with the United States insisting Pyongyang talk to Seoul and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to discuss nuclear inspections.

The two countries last month agreed to resume the talks on March 21. A six-member team of

IAEA inspectors arrived in Pyongyang Tuesday to examine North Korea's seven dethose at Yongbyon, north of the capital. They made the first IAEA inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities in more than a year Thursday. South Korea, announcing a

clared nuclear sites including

decision to suspend the "Team Soirit" military exercise with the United States next year, resumed border talks Thursday. to discuss the exchange of en-

It said the decision was conditional on the envoy exchange, which the South hopes will help settle the nuclear dispute and pave the way for a meeting between the two Ko-

But the talks are deadlocked over the North's repeated demands that Seoul stop nuclear war exercises, halt international cooperation in solving the nuclear issue and give up a plan to deploy Patriot missiles in the South.

#### Cruise ship runs aground in Finland

HELSINKI (R) — Water is no longer pouring into a cruise ship which ran aground in icy waters off Finland's southern coast, forcing the evacuation of 1,101 passengers and 158 crew, the vessel's owners said Saturday. The Sally Albatross was badly holed and water gushed into the engine room after it went aground near the Porkkala peninsula Friday afternoon while returning to Helsinki after a 24-hour cruise in the Gulf of Finland. The 169-metre (554 ft) Sally Albatross freed itself but started listing badly and was towed into shallow water after all passengers and crew had been safely evacuated. "The water was coming in quite heavily at one moment during the night," said Eeva Korhonen at shipping company Silja Line, the ship's

a landmark general election later this month. Mr. Spaventa. who is running for the leftist "progressives" against tycoonturned-politician Berlusconi in central Rome, accused the right of making empty promises on taxes. "The right-wing alliance formed in Italy is neither liberal nor free-market but rather lavish, populist and all talk. In fact, of the South American type," Mr. Spaventa said in an interview with the daily Il Messaggero. "It seems that their basic promise is: "I am better, so things will get better when I get power," he added. A "poll of polls" in Il Messaggero showed the right-wing grouping of Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party, the separatist Northern League and the neofascist National Alliance led the left by up to six percentage points ahead of the March 27-28 vote. The newspaper quoted the Cirra Polling Institute as putting the right's share of the vote at around 42 per cent.

# White House, treasury hit with Whitewater subpoenas

friend of Mr. Clinton's wife Hillary, met with the president late Friday but his expected departure from the White House staff was delayed until

met tonight. They had a good meeting. We'll have nothing further to say today (about the resignation)," an official said.

baum's resignation was a certainty, an official said, adding. "it's a hard thing."

- Lisa Caputo, Mrs. Clinton's press secretary. Mr. Nussbaum, a 55-year-

friends.

Gearan.

Sources said the Treasury Department officials issued subpoenas were Deputy Secretary Roger Altman, General Counsel Jean Hanson, and Chief of Staff Joshua

Mr. Fiske also ordered the production of documents concerning conversation between the White House and the Department of the Treasury or the Resolution Trust Corp -

in a statement.

Klein ordering compliance with the demand for papers and spelling out how the requested documents were to be

preserved for the grand jury. Ms. Myers also released related memoes ordering that all White House computer records, trash baskets and burn bags be preserved for the special counsel's investigation.

The president, asked Friday at a news conference whether Mr. Nussbaum was leaving, pointedly declined to give him a vote of confidence - a sure sign that Mr. Nussbaum had become politically radioactive. He ignored one Nussbaum

clear and appropriate firewall

#### WASHINGTON (R) — Six grand jury in Washington, D.C., White House officials old former Wall Street lawyer, has come under fire for meet-

grand jury.

at least Saturday. "The president and Bernie

Despite the delay, Mr. Nuss-

The six are to testify on March 10 before a federal

Clinton's chief of staff, and

munications Director Mark

- Margaret Williams, Mrs.

- Mr. Nussbaum.

Madison Guaranty.

subpoena," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Mr. Myers released a memorandum from Deputy White House Counsel Joel

"I want a full investigation. I want this thing to be done fully, clearly, and be over with," Mr. Clinton said.

query and said in reply to the thrift crisis clean-up agency another, "I have nothing more concerning the probe of to add to what I said yesterday." Madison's owner was James McDougal, the Clintons' part-Mr. Clinton made clear at - Bruce Lindsey, a senior ner in the money-losing the news conference that he adviser to the president and felt procedures were now in Whitewater real estate venture that has given the political exone of Mr. Clinton's closest place to prevent any percepplosive affair its name. tion that the White House was "The White House will com-- Deputy White House trying to influence the probe. Chief of Staff Harold Ickes. ply fully and promptly with the "We have constructed a - White House Com-

between the White House and any federal regulatory agency that might have anything to do with this." he said Friday.

المكذا عند المأصل

what was done, and it obviously is not helpful to our rela-White House aides were subtions," Mr. Clinton told reporing federal officials overseeing poenaed to testify on said. ters at the White House. Whitewater-related matters, a probe of Arkansas business adding that "we have sent a and White House lawyer Berdeals involving the Clintons very stern statement" to nard Nussbaum prepared to and their friends. Chinese authorities. resign, as fallout from Presi-The discussions occurred Mr. Christopher, who left dent Bill Clinton's controverjust after the Resolution Trust Washington on his Asia trio sial financial dealings in Corp. — a federal agency set Friday, said he still wanted to up to manage the cleanup of Arkansas widened Friday. Steiner. press ahead with his visit to A treasury spokesman said the savings and loan industry owner. A tug was at the scene and water was still being pumped China despite the arrests. three treasury officials were - asked the Justice Departout from the stricken ship. "We assume that the boat will be where it is for several days but the situation is stable," she "These events only underalso ordered to testify before a ment to look into possible criscore the importance of being grand jury in the case. minality in connection with the able to make human rights The subpoenas were ordered collapse of Madison Guaranty points at the highest level. by Whitewater special counsel Savines and Loan. Berlusconi attacked over tax cuts That's been a major purpose of The subpoenas were the first Robert Fiske, who demanded my trip and I intend to do the production of White to hit White House officials in ROME (R) — Italian Budget Minister Luigi Spaventa attacked right-wing rival Silvio Berlusconi's plans for tax cuts that," he told reporters aboard House documents for the the special counsel's probe. his plane. Those subpoenaed to testify Saturday but a polister said the right was ahead in the race for Mr. Nussbaum, a longtime Half a dozen activists in Shanghai were rounded up to

#### Sukova eliminates Sabatini, Graf rolls on in Florida

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Helena Sukova extended Gabriela Sabatini's victory drought to 30 tournaments in a row Friday while Steffi Graf rolled to another commanding triumph at the \$400,000 Virginia Slims of Flor-

The fifth-seeded Sukova scored a 6-4, 6-4 quarter-final victory over Sabatini, seeded third, while the top-seeded Graf, a four-time champion here, reached the semifinals with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over seventh-seeded Sabine Hack of

The last of Sabatini's 25 career titles was the Italian Open in May 1992 — 30 tournaments and 21 months

"I do need a turning point to get back that confidence," said the fifth-ranked Argentine. "It's a little disappointing every time. It doesn't make me feel too good."

Saturday's semifinals pit Graf against Sukova and second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, who beat 16th seed Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-2, against 14th-seeded American Chanda Rubin, a 6-4, 6-0 winner over ninth-seeded Ukrainian Natalia Medvedeva.

Sabatini, a three-time former Slims of Florida champion, came into the match with an impressive 11-4 winning record over the 18th-ranked Sukova. Prior to Friday's loss, Sabatini had dropped only two sets to the Czech in their last 10

"I lost that many?" exclaimed an astonished Sukova, a finalist at the 1993 U.S. Open. "You shouldn't have told me. I guess it's good I beat her this time."

It was a different Sukova that Sabatini faced here. Having lost in the opening round of her last three tournaments, Sukova imported coach Jaromir Jirik to repair her game. Jirik, who is also a

physician, had the right re-

"My confidence is back because of him," said Sukova. He knows my personality and which strings to pull. After my last tournament I was very much down. He was able to

help me over that." Sukova played an intelligent match - capitalising on her strong serve-and-volley style, but also dominating play from the backcourt.

"I was surprised at the way she played," Sabatini said. "She maintained her level very well. She never slowed down. I was waiting for her to change, but she didn't.

Graff, the world number one who has not lost a set in the 20 matches she has played this year, posted 26 winners to Hack's four.

Graf broke the 22nd-ranked Hack's serve in the third and fifth games of the first set. Hack held serve only once in the second set - in the third

"I guess I played all right," said Graf. "Sometimes, I lost my concentration on a couple of points."

# Sampras reaches semis

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Top seed Pete Sampras, playing at the top of his game, routed eighth-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria 6-3 6-2 in 74 minutes to reach the semifinals of the \$1.72 million Champions Cup late Friday.

Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden ended unseeded Darren Cahill's upset run here beating the Australian 6-4 6-3 in 62 minutes in his quarterfinal match at the 56-player, hard court tournament.

Tenth-seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic outlasted 16th-seeded Carlos Costa of Spain 6-3 3-6 6-3 in a two hour, seven minute baseline duel.

Unseeded American Aaron Krickstein ousted 12th-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia 6-3 6-4 in the fourth quarter-

finai. In the semifinals, Sampras faces Edberg, and Korda plays Krickstein.

The top-ranked Sampras pounded in 11 aces and kept the 11th-ranked Muster on the defensive throughout the match with his aggressive net

Sampras broke Muster once in the fourth game of the first set, the longest game of the

of the Champions Cup match, by outrallying the tenacious Muster and breezed through his own service games.

Despite Muster's attempts to engage Sampras in long rallies and to hit looping shots to the American's backhand, Sampras controlled the second set as well, breaking the Austrian baseliner three times while dropping his own serve once, when Muster scored three times on passing shots.

Sampras — who has won the

last three grand slam events. the 1993 French Open, the 1993 Wimbledon and the 1994 Australian Open - called his effort against Muster his best

"I thought I played a solid match. I came out and I worked the points. I didn't make any errors. I was going for my returns and serving well, and I'm very pleased going into the semis against Stefan," Sampras

Muster, who admits he is more comfortable on slower surfaces, said he was simply overwhelmed by Sampras.

Cahill this week had beaten 11th-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland and fifth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia before falling to Edberg.

#### **GOREN BRIDGE**

PHILADELPHIA

THELMA AND LOUISE

Shows: 12:30, 3, 8:30, 10:30

BATTEN DOWN THE HATCHES

NORTH ♠A3 ♡AJ53 +A872 WEST 10742 EAST ♣ J 9 8 5 ♡ Void 710976 0 A K 10 4 8 2 ♣ Q J 10 SOUTE \* K Q 6

The bidding:
East South West

1 0 1 0 Pass
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of \(\phi\)
We have constantly exhorted that ssimism pays at the bridge table. Consider the play of this hand and then rate declarer's shility on a scale

was g Since have

0

D

A

North South vulnerable. East to the top spot by jumping to four

hearts. West led the queen of diamonds and continued the suit. When East led a third round, declarer ruffed high to protect against an overruff. South's judgment was proved cor-rect, but when fast showed out on the first trump. South still had to lose a trump and a club for down

Whether the hand was played at duplicate or rubber bridge is irrele-vant. All that can be determined from this performance is that South's dummy-play technique de-served no more than a two on our

After losing the first two tricks declarer still had to concede a club no matter what. The only danger to the contract was a 4-0 trump split and declarer could have protected

against that easily enough.
Instead of ruffing the third dia-

# Boston Celtics snap record loss streak with win over L.A. Lakers

BOSTON (R) - The Boston Celtics snapped their franchise-record 13-game los-ing streak with a 109-99 victory over Los Angeles Lakers late Friday as Dino Radja posted career-highs with 36 points and 15 rebounds.

The Celtics had not won a game since Jan. 30, and were winless in the entire month of February.

The Lakers and Celtics once the marquee matchup of the NBA but now two teams needing a big turnaround just to make the playoffs - were meeting for the second time in six days, L.A. having nipped Boston 100-97 Sunday.

Dee Brown added 22 points for Boston and Acie Earl had 10 points with-a career-high nine rebounds.

In Chicago, Clyde Drexler scored 28 points and pulled down nine boards to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to a 115-96 win over the slumping three-time defending champion Bulls. The loss was Chicago's

fourth straight at home, the first time the Bulls have done that since April 8, 1984. Drexler hit 11 of his 19 shots

and connected on four 3pointers. Rod Strickland added 16 points and dished out 11 assists as six Blazers scored in double figures.
Scottie Pippen scored 22

points and Corie Blount added 17 for the Bulls, who fell to 3-7 since the All-Star break, including 2-6 at Chicago Sta-Portland, whose last win at

the 1992 NBA finals, won its second in a row and is 8-1 in its last nine games. Chicago, which has lost four straight since a three-game win streak, has been held under

Chicago was in game two of

In San Antonio, David Robinson scored 14 of his 41 points in the fourth quarter to lift the Spurs to a 121-113



Portland Trailblazers Harvey Grant (right) blocks a shot by Chicago Bulls Pete Meyers (centre) as the Trailblazers Clyde Drexler (left) looks on during their NBA game (AFP photo)

victory over the struggling Los Angeles Clippers.

In Phoenix, Cedric Ceballos scored 17 of his 29 points in the second half as the Suns overcame a sluggish start to record their 20th straight victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves, 106-101.

A.C. Green added 18 points and 11 rebounds, including four points in an 8-0 run early in the fourth quarter that gave 100 points in each of its last six

the Suns a comfortable 92-83 In Denver, Reggie Williams scored all 20 of his points in the second half to lead the surging

Nuggets to a 98-89 triumph

over the Orlando Magic.

In Indianapolis, Derrick McKey scored 24 points and Byron Scott added 16 off the bench to lead the red-hot Indi-ana Pacers to a 126-110 rout of the New Jersey Nets.

The Pacers, winners of 14 of their last 16 games and nine in a row at home, improved to 3-0 against the Nets this season. Reserve Johnny Newman

scored 20 points to pace the Nets, who have lost back-toback games for the first time since Feb. 6 and 8. McKey was 9-of-11 from the

field and 6-of-7 from the line for the Pacers, who never

# Peacock upsets Manchester United

LONDON (R) — Gavin Peacock, scorer for Chelsea in Manchester United's only previous defeat in the English Premier League this season, repeated the feat Saturday as the Londoners stunned the league leaders 1-0 at Old Traf-

Chelsea handed United their only previous loss in the league this season with a similar scoreline at Stamford Bridge in September. Before Saturday United had been unbeaten in 34 league and cup matches, only six short of the English

Blackburn, 2-0 victors over Liverpool, narrowed the gap at the top of the league to four points, although United have a game in hand.

Jason Wilcox and Tim Sherwood, recalled after injury. scored for Blackburn each side

Ian Wright, not required in new England manager Terry Venables's first squad and dropped for Arsenal's mid-week European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg match against Torino, scored a hat-trick as the north London side thrashed Ipswich 5-1.

Wright scored a splendid goal from a tight angle in the 18th minute, converted a 40thminute penalty and scored again four minutes from time for his 27th goal of the season. At the other end of the table, bottom-placed Swindon

salvaged a 1-1 draw with West

Manchester United, in hot pursuit of a unique English treble of league title, league cup and F.A. Cup, started without inspirational Frenchman Eric Cantona for the second game in a row.

And ominously for the Old Trafford crowd of 44,745, Chelsea fielded the only two men to score winners against United this season - Peacock and Mark Stein, who scored twice for Stoke City in the league cup also back in

Both men combined for Chelsea's goal Saturday with 3r Stein nodding the ball to 35

Peacock who calmly beat Peter 18 Schmeichel. Kenny Dalglish, a cult figure for Liverpool both as player and manager, was his usual emotionless self as his new team Blackburn showed the battle for the premier league title is far from over.

Wilcox scored in the 17th minute when Norwegian Henning Berg caught the defence napping with a clipped pass to leave Stuart Ripley in the clear Ripley sent over a low cross and Wilcox rammed the ball past David James from close

Blackburn grabbed their second in the 65th minute when Liverpool's defence was again caught flat-footed and Alan Shearer opened the way for Sherwood to put a 15-metre shot beyond James's reach.

## Kankkunen wins Portuguese Rally; Auriol occupies second place

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) --Finnish driver Juha Kankkunen won the Portuguese Rally late Friday, roaring out of the mid-country hills pressed only by French teammate Didier Auriol who took second for a Toyota sweep of the four-day road race.

Kankkunen, last year's world rally champion, pushed his Toyota Celica to a 6 hour, 20 minute and 59 second overall time, winning nine of the 36 dirt and gravel stages and finishing 40 seconds ahead of runner-up Auriol.

Italy's Massimo Biasion, in a Ford Escort Cosworth Cs, was 50 seconds off Kankkunen for third. Carlos Sainz of Spain was 2 minutes, 16 seconds behind in his Subaru Impreza 555 for fourth in the 2,215 kilometre road race.

Auriol threatened to over-

take the Finn in the final two days of racing.

But it was Kankkunen's consistency, never lower than fourth in a stage, that won the "Flying Finn" the roses and his first world rally victory of the 1994 season.

"It was a very tough rally, very hard fought," Kankkunen said after racing to the finish in this town 26 kilometres west of Lisbon. "That last leg was

Local favourite Carlos Sainz also drove well, winning one stage and tying for second with Kankkunen on another. But Sainz's effort and the screaming support of thousands of fans who lined the roads to cheer him on were not enough to top the feisty driving of "Miki" Biasion.

Biasion, after being passed late on day three by Auriol,

win two stages and tie Kankkunen for first on another, racing to within ten seconds of second place.

The 1994 Portuguese Rally has seen favoured drivers drop out early: Scotland's Colin McRae Thursday abandoned the race after his Subaru Impreza 555 stalled on the steep midcountry hills.

racewinner Francois Delecour of France and Italy's Andrea est Aghini, both of whom left the race with engine failures Wednesday, on the sidelines. Friday's final eight stages

covered 592 kilometres from the central town of Viseu to

The roads were generally hard and dry after four days of sun, despite the early fog.

## Maradona still unpredictable after all these years

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The image of soccer star Diego Maradona, squinting down the barrel of a compressed-air rifle, was of a besieged man literally taking aim at his critics and tormen-

Maradona, the best-known active player of the world's most popular sport, has admitted shooting at journalists gathered outside his home Feb. 2, a day after he and Argentine team Newell's Old Boys announced he was leaving the club. Five journalists were injured by the pellets.
"Out of control," read a

leading newsweekly's cover headline under a photo of Maradona pointing the rifle. Five days later, after travell-

ing to Oriente, a fishing town (450 kilometres) south of Buenos Aires to escape the media glare. Maradona fought with a news photographer in a restaurant. Even for Maradona, known

for his mood swings, this was bizarre behaviour. Argentines, usually quick to forgive their hero's sins, are

wondering about his state of mind just four months before the World Cup begins in the United States. "He has become a victim of a world that cares about suc-

cess, nothing else," Guillermo Blanco, Maradon's former press chief, told the Associated Press. "Everyone wants to know if he's going to play in the World Cup. That's important. What's important is him

as a person." Maradona is trying to relax in Oriente with his wife, Claudia, and daughters Dalma, 6, and Giannina, 4. He must testify to a judge investigating the shooting, but a date

has not been set, said one of his lawyers, Hugo Wortman

An AP request to interview Maradona was rejected. But many Maradona watchers say the midfielder is depressed because at age 33, hampered by leg and backs injuries, he realizes he is not longer the player who dominated the 1980s.

Maradona, however, said Thursday he is "dreaming of playing the World Cup," which would give him the chance to 'go out with flying colours." Those who know Maradona do not doubt him.

"Maradona always needs to feel motivated, and the only motivation he has is the World Cup," said Enrique Sacco, a radio and TV journalist who has covered Maradona closely. "On the national team he feels permanently motivated."

Throughout his career which began when the 15-yearold from the Buenos Aires slums signed a \$100 a week contract with local team Argentinos Juniors - Maradona has been as brilliant with the soccer ball as he has been

clumsy without it. In 1991 he received a 15month suspension for testing positive for cocaine use after a game for the Italian team Naples, where he played from 1984-91. A month later, after returning in disgrace to Buenos Aires, he was arrested for

cocaine possession. Maradona was not sentenced to jail, but ordered to undergo treatment and submit to periodic drug tests.

During his suspension, the 1.65 metre Maradona ballooned nearly nine kilogrammes. He repeatedly said he would never play competitive soccer again.

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"

**FILOFAX** 

CONCORD '2'

PASSENGER

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30,8:30,10:30

But he signed with the Spanish club Sevilla, where he failed to improve a mediocre team in his only season there.

Upon his return to Argentina, Maradona again promised that he was retired. But with the help of a Chinese dietitian in Uruguay, he lost about 10 kilogrammes, returned to the national team and signed with Newell's - his first stint with an Argentine league team

since 1981. "One constant about Maradona is his unpredictability, Blanco said. "You can never guess what he'll do next," At his best in the mid-1980's,

Maradona zigzagged with the ball seemingly attached to his foot, freezing defenders in their tracks the way Michael Jordan did on the basketball court. The precision of his passes often surprised even his

teammates. On the biggest stage of all, the World Cup, Maradona took on an aura of invincibility, leading Argentina to the title in 1986.

He got away with scoring one of his two goals in the quarterfinals against England by illegally using his fist: The so-called "hand of God" goal, decisive in Argentina's 2-1 victory, gave the country a measure of sporting revenge for its defeat in the 1982 Falkland Islands war with Britain, and assured Maradona's place as a national legend.

In 1990, with defenders sha-

dowing his every move. Maradona was less effective in the World-Cup.-But his presence created opportunities for teammates, and Argentina finished runner-up to West Germany. Today, Maradona can still

qualifying games against Australia last year. But he is at least a step slower than he was in 1986. Defenders, all too aware of his

make the sharp pass, as he did

in a tie and win in two

passing ability, usually trip or slide-tackle Maradona before he can set up his teammates. "Just by the nature of aging, his body isn't the same as in 1986," Sacco said. "He doesn't have the same explosion. He

can still be important to the

national team, but not decisive

like in '86.' Though neither Newell's nor Maradona spelled out the reasons for their Feb. 1 separation, Maradona was clearly tired of limping on worn-out legs and disgusted with his team's poor play. Newell's apparently decided that Maradona was not worth the \$7 million they had to pay for

him. But Maradona, surprising as always, says he wants to return to Newell's.

"When I give myself to something, I give myself com-pletely," Maradona said Thursday. "I feel I owe a debt to the fans, and I want to pay it

## Harding's mother gets strange package, bomb squad called

PORTLAND, Ore (R) - The bomb squad was called in Friday after the mother of figure skater Tonya Harding received a suspicious package, police

The incident happened a day after Harding was attacked by an unknown assailant while walking bome through a Portland park Thursday night. She escaped, but suffered scrapes, bruises and a sprained wrist.

Harding is under investigation over allegations she was involved in plotting the Jan. 6 attack on rival skater Nancy Kerrigan. Lavona Golden, Harding's mother, went to pick up mail

Jantzen Beach Shopping Centre in Portland Friday afternoon, and found a small package with a letter attached. Portland police spokesman Dernick Foxworth said.

from a post office box in the

but left the package untouched.

Foxworth said the anonymous letter said something like: "I'm a Nancy Kerrigan fan and you're Tonya Hard-

Foxworth did not know the contents of the letter in detail, but he said Golden interpreted it to be a threat and made an emergency call to police.

"She became fearful it was a bomb and she called 911," he

A police officer came to look at the package, decided not to open it and called in the bomb squad, which took away the suspicious package.

Foxworth said the bomb squad had not yet opened the package, but planned to do so sometime Friday evening. Harding has long had a stor-

my relationship with her Golden opened the letter,

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PLAZA

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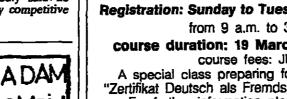
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#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Vigilantes wound alleged Gaza kidnapper

SHATI REFUGEE CAMP, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) -Assailants dragged two suspected kidnappers into the square of this refugee camp Saturday, then shot one in the leg and clubbed the other as hundreds of residents looked on. Men linked to Fateh have been acting as self-styled enforcers in the occupied Gaza Strip, shooting and wounding suspected criminals in public. The men, called Fatch Hawks, saidin a statement Saturday that they were responsible for security until a Palestinian police force is deployed under Palestinian autonomy. The suspected kidnappers had taken three-year-old Mohammad Nawajha from his home on Thursday and demanded \$9,000 in ransom. On Saturday, Fateh activists found the kidnappers' hideout and rescued the boy unharmed, Palestinian reporters said. Three masked Hawks dragged the alleged kidnappers. Ali Abu Kas, 24, and Mohammad Thabet, 19, to Shati's main square. Both men had their arms and legs tied. One of the gunmen then shot Abu Kas in the left leg and the others beat up Thabet. About 200 camp residents watched the scene. Abu Kas and Thabet were taken to a nearby

#### Iraqi paper calls for summit to face Israel

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday on Saturday called on the leaders of Iraq, Libya and Sudan to meet to coordinate anti-Israeli policies. "It is not impossible... for the leaders of Iraq, Libya and Sudan... and leaders from any other Arab country concerned with the Palestinian issue... to draw up a political, economic and military agenda," the newspaper Babel said in a commentary. It said such a meeting would be the "prelude for... relations of a developed kind among the summit countries."

#### University head, son killed in Algiers

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PARIS (R) - The director of the Algiers school of fine arts and his son were shot dead Saturday morning on the university premises near the centre of the Algerian capital, security forces there said. The forces, quoted by the Algerian state news agency APS monitored in Paris, said the two were killed by two "terrorists." the official term for armed Muslim militants. The gunmen, including one carrying a school satchel, got into the institution by pretending to be students. Ahmad Asselah, 54, was shot in the head and died immediately. His 22-year-old son Rabah, a student at the university, was wounded in the stomach and taken to hospital, where he died

#### Libya will observe Aouzou ruling

CAIRO (R) - Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, quoted by an Egyptian newspaper, has said Libya would withdraw from the Aouzou Strip but first needed to make unspecified arrangements with Chad. The International Court of Justice (ICI) in the Hague ruled last month that the strip was part of Chad and that Libya should withdraw its forces, which have been there since 1973. "Qadhafi told the Egyptian press delegation now visiting Libya that Libya would abide by the ICI ruling on withdrawal from the Aouzou Strip," the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram reported. "He said that the file on this region was now fully closed by the court's final verdict but that there were some arrangements between Libya and Chad to put the courtr's decision into practice." The newspaper gave no other details.

#### Pope to go to Lebanon despite blast

ROME (R) - Pope John Paul's top aide said Friday the pontiff would go ahead with a trip to Lebanon despite a bomb Sunday. "He will make the trip as a pastor and as pilgrim... Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano said. Cardinal Sodano was speaking at a mass in Rome for the victims of the blast in a Maronite Catholic church near Beirut that also wounded 60 people. Lebanon's information minister said the blast may have been designed to stop a papal visit scheduled for May. It will be the Pope's first visit to Lebanon, which is rebuilding from the 1975-1990 civil war.

#### Canadian journalist shot in Kabul

KABUL (AP) - A Canadian freelance journalist and his interpreter were shot and wounded Saturday while travelling in a car near the front-line that divides the warring factions. Tyler Brule of Toronto was hit in both arms and his interpreter Syah Sang Zaboor, an Afghan, was shot in the neck. They were rushed to Kabul's Carte Se Hospital. Neither had injuries that were life threatening, doctors said. There are several armed factions in the area and it was not immediately clear who fired on them. The two were in a car belonging to Medecins Sans Frontieres, a French-based medical aid group, but apparently went into a front-line area they had been warned to stay away from.

#### Rock star Cobain out of coma

ROME (R) - Kurt Cobain, the lead singer and guitarist with rock band Nirvana, is out of a coma and in improved condition after overdosing on a mixture of drink and tranquillisers, the Rome American Hospital said on Saturday. "Today he came out of the coma... is able to breathe sufficiently and can talk." the hospital said in a statement. Cobain was rushed to hospital early on Friday morning after falling ill in the luxury Rome Hotel where he was enjoying a few days' holiday with his wife and two-year-old daugher. The 27-year-old Cobain has admitted to using heroin in the past but the hospital statement said that his illness was caused by the effects of alcohol and tranquillisers which he had been prescribed.

#### India, Iran, China ministers to meet

NEW DELHI (R) - The foreign ministers of India, Iran and China may meet in Tehran to discuss mounting Western pressure on their governments to stop alleged humanrights violations, Indian diplomats said on Saturday. They said Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh left for Tehran on Saturday, ostensibly to attend an India-Iran joint commission meeting. But, they said, apart from his talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Mr. Singh would also meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen who arrived in

#### Yemen's first president dies SANAA (AP) - Abdullah Sallal, the first president of

Yemen after the overthrow of the feudal imam, died Saturday of a heart attack. He was 74. Sallal was a member of the "dialogue committee" that was mediating for months to end a political crisis between leaders of the unified republic of conservative North Yemen and the former Marxist South Yemen. Sallal was present at last month's ceremony in Amman hosted by King Hussein at which the feuding leaders signed a reconciliation charter. The government announced three days of official mourning for Sallal's death, with flags flown at half mast (King sends condolences, page 3). Sallal was born 1915 in Sanaa, and educated in Iraq. Chief of staff to the imam, Sallal led a movement of free officers within the army and, with the help of Egypt, overthrew the imam in 1962. He became president of the revolutionary council and carried the rank of field marshal. But while on a visit to Egypt in 1967, he was himself overthrown in a peaceful revolution by Judge Abdul Rahman Al Irvani. The latter also was to lose his position and live in exile in Syria. The two men were pardoned and allowed to return in the early 1980s by Ali Abdullah Saleh, the president of North Yemen who has remained president of the unified republic of north and south.



IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday hosted an iftar at Basman Palace in honour of Cental Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saced Al Nabulsi, governors, leaders of Palestinian refugee camps, heads of professional and labour unions and associations and chairmen of hands of banks. The banquet was attended by

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the military secretary of the King, His Royal High-ness Ghazi Ben Mohammad. Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and the King's advisors.

## Officials deny Brooklyn attackers linked to any militant group

Police recovered an array of

automatic weapons after

arresting Mr. Baz, including

the two semi-automatics police

said were used in the attack

that left one student brain dead

and another critically wound-

ed. Two others suffered lesser

gunshot wounds in Tuesday's

have come across in any of our

investigations to corroborate

the ABC report," Mr. Bratton

ABC said the FBI and the

Mossad have had all three men

under surveillance "for some

Mr. Gavin, deputy assistant

director in charge of the FBI's

New York office, also said the

ABC report was not accurate.

have at our control - our

resources and contacts with

other members of the intelli-

gence community, along with

ourselves — there is no basis.

for that story that was re-

But Mr. Gavin also said that

"Looking at everything we

"There is nothing that we

NEW YORK (Agencies) -There is no evidence that the three men arrested in the Brooklyn Bridge attack on Jewish students were part of a militant Arab group, authorities said.

But they refused to comment on another report that said alleged gunman Rashad Baz, 28, was linked to a Lebanese heroin ring with possible ties to the Hizbollah

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, speaking at a news conference with Police Commissioner William Bratton and Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Regional Director William A. Gavin, said there was no truth to an ABC-TV news report broadcast Thurs-

Mr. Giuliani said the FBI

and city police checked carefully to see "if there is any substance to the story... and there appears to be "none." The network, citing unidentified sources, said Mr. Baz and the other two men arrested in the case — Hlal Mohammad, 32, and Bassam Reyati, 27 — were part of a U.S. enclave of militant Arabs being

Israel's Mossad. linked to Tuesday's ambush on a van filled with young rabbinical students was part of a larger cache expected to be used in future attacks.

watched by the FBI and

Mr. Baz is a Lebanese national and Mr. Reyati and Mr. Mohammad come from

PARIS (R) - Algerian Presi-

dent Liamine Zeroual, in his

latest move in an emerging

campaign to end civil strife.

Saturday formed an inner cir-

cle of advisers who favour dia-

logue with Muslim fun-

Mr. Zeroual's office

announced that Ahmad

Ouvabia, former secretary of

state for cooperation and

North African affairs at the

Foreign Ministry, was

appointed chief aide to the

The statement, quoted by

the state news agency APS

monitored in Paris, also said

senior diplomat Mihoubi

Mihoub would become di-

plomatic counsellor and offi-

It was the first time an Alge-

rian head of state had named

an official spokesman, high-

lighting the importance Mr.

Zeroual attaches to communi-

cating with the public, a task

neglected by his predecessors.

cial presidential spokesman.

damentalists.

president.

ABC also said the weapons

does not mean they would not investigate such allegations in the future. "You never close the door on an issue like this," he said. Mr. Gavin refused to com-

ment when asked if the three were linked to last year's World Trade Centre bombing.

Nor would any of the officials comment on a daily news report that Mr. Baz is part of an international drug ring that may have ties to Hizbollah. Mr. Giuliani said to com-

Algerian leader picks advisers

North African Affairs.

directed the Foreign Ministry's

Department of Arab and

Mr. Zeroual named Yousef

Al Khatib as his personal coun-

sellor, underscoring his willing-

ness to open a dialogue with

the opposition and, more parti-

Mr. Khatib, a veteran of

Algeria's war of independence

from France, presided over an

official commission of national

dialogue which broke a politic-

al taboo by speaking directly to

the outlawed Islamic Salvation

The eight-member commis-

sion, including three army generals, established contact

with seven FIS leaders held in

since July 1992 after being con-

victed by a military court of

violating national security.

Mr. Zeroual, a former

general appointed in January

by Algeria's military lead-

ership, appers to have a two-

were freed on Feb. 22.

Two of the seven, jailed

a military prison in Blida.

Front (FIS).

cularly, fundamentalists.

ment further would compromise any ongoing investigations. Mr. Baz has been charged with 15 counts of attempted murder. He war ordered held without bail after his arraignment Thursday.

Mr. Mohammad, the owner of the auto repair shop where Mr. Baz took the car used in the attack, and Mr. Reyati, Mr. Baz's boss at the livery shop, were charged with hindering prosecution for helping Mr. Baz after the attack.

Mr. Mohammad was released on bail from Rikers Island on Friday. Mr. Reyati remains jailed.

Mr. Baz denied planning the attack in his statement to police. At one point during the lengthy questioning, he said the shooting was the result of a traffic dispute that began when the van driver cut him off.

In Beirut, the parents of Mr. Baz were quoted Saturday as saying their son was innocent and pleaded for his return

"I don't think my son would carryout an attack like that because we raised him to respect all religions," Najib Baz. 60, was quoted by Al Nahar

newspaper as saying in Beiritt.
The father pleaded with the United States and the international community to stand by his son and allow him to return to his native Lebanon.

"He was a serious student. against violence and injustice, and he never thought of hating Jews," Rashad's mother Suheila, a Palestinian in her 50s, was quoted as saying.

violence that has rocked the

country - wooing the FIS

while ruthlessly hunting down

Algerian newspapers have

said the government may be

preparing to free FIS leaders

Abassi Madani and Ali

Belhadi, but the Algiers daily

Al Watan quoted a military

prosecutor on Thursday as

saying no such decision had

Diplomats have questioned

whether FIS leaders have any

influence over the militants af-

ter two years of accelerating

political violence estimated to

have killed at least 3,000 peo-

commission, Ahmad Sabhadji,

a general and former director

of military infrastructure, was

appointed director of presiden-

Algeria's former ambassa-

dor to India, Ahmad Attaf,

replaced Ahmad Ouyahia as

secretary of state for coopera-

Another member of the

armed groups.

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tial protocol.

## Russia pledges to stép up Middle East peace effort

TUNIS (AP) — Russia plans to accelerate its efforts to negotiate peace in the Middle East in the wake of the Hebron massacre, a Russian envoy told Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Ara-

Russia and the United States are co-sponsoring the peace talks, halted when a Jewish settler gunned down Muslims praying in a Hebron mosque Feb. 25, killing at least 60 people.

Syria, Lebanon and Jordan have withdrawn from the negotiations in protest, and the PLO says it will not resume talks unless Israel acts on Palestinian demands for better protection from such violence.

The Russian commitment was made by Igor Ivanov, a first deputy foreign minister, during a meeting with Mr. Arafat Friday night, the Russian embassy said in a news

Mr. Ivanov, making his second visit to the Tunis headquarters of the PLO in four days, also reviewed with Mr. Arafat efforts under way in the U.N. Security Council to issue a resolution on the Hebron bloodbath.

The PLO is pressing the Security Council to send U.N. peacekeepers to protect Palestinians in the Israelioccupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel rejects such а точе.

"The two sides dwelled on the efforts to adopt an active resolution which will help in easing tension and resume the negotiations," the embassy

The PLO news agency WAFA said Mr. Ivanov carried "a very important message" from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Mr. Arafat and briefed him about his meetings with the Israeli leaders. It did not give further details.

Russian officials accompany ing Mr. Ivanov refused to divulge details about his talks with Mr. Arafat as well as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

But PLO officials said the Russians are trying to convince the two rivals to accept Russian observers in the occupied territories in an attempt to break the deadlock caused by

In an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel, Mr. Arafat was quoted as doubting Israel's commitment

to the peace process. "It seems as though they don't want peace," he said in interview excerpts provided by the magazine in advance of its publication Monday.

Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying the Hebron massacre gave a boost to Palestinian extremists and the situation was "highly critical." Only a quick implementation of the autonomy accord and a rapid pullout of Israeli troops would relax tension, he said.

### Defendant in Bush plot trial retracts confession

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The only defendant to plead guilty in an alleged Iraqi plot to kill former U.S. President George Bush has retracted an earlier confession that he had an explosive belt to use in his mis-

"In fact, it was a gun belt with bullet pockets," Wali Al Ghazali, a 36-year-old male nurse, Saturday told the judge presiding over a state security court hearing the case of 14 Iraqis and Kuwaitis accused of taking part in the alleged plan.

He told the court he discarded the belt when he decided to flee back to Iraq on

Mr. Ghazali told the no-jury court on the first day of the trial that opened in June 1993 that Iraqi intelligence agents gave him an explosive-laden car to blow up at Kuwait University, where Mr. Bush was to be honoured for his role in assembling an international coalition that evicted Iraq's army from Kuwait three years

He also said at the beginning of the trial that he was ordered to wear the belt, get as close as he could to the visiting former American president and blow himself up in case the car bomb did not work.

Mr. Ghazali's lawyer told the court the man was too stupid for Baghdad to have chosen him as a killer.

"That is the most stupid thing to do, that I sent somebody who is stupid to carry out a mission of top importance. Where is the planning?" Mujbil Al Rashdan said.

Mr. Rashdan, one of several defence lawyers, was presenting closing arguments at the nine-month-old trial in which the Iraqis and one of three accused Kuwaitis face the

death penalty.

The lawyer did not explain to the court why Mr. Ghazali had admitted being ordered by Iraqi intelligence to blow up Mr.

"I have been done injustice to (by Iraq), and done myself injustice," Mr. Ghazali said. "Even those who sent me, I'm not acquainted with them, by

When the judge asked him why he had obeyed them if he did not know them, Mr. Ghazali replied: "They have their Mr. Ghazali has previously

said he was an unwilling recruit and Iraqi officers had made clear his family might suffer if he refused the mission. Another Iraqi defendant,

Raad Al Assadi, has admitted being told by Iraqi intelligence to help Mr. Ghazali set bombs in shops and car showrooms but denied knowledge of any assassination plot. The other 12 defendants

deny any involvement in the alleged plot and most of the Iraqi defendants say they came to Kuwait to see friends and family, seek loans or collect money owed to them or to help smuggie or sell alcohol. Prosecutors have asked for

the 11 Iraqis and one Kuwaiti to be sentenced to death, with 10-year jail terms for two Kuwaitis accused of complic-

Iraq says Kuwait and the United States fabricated the plot to try to tighten economic sanctions against Baghdad

The United States launched a cruise missile attack on Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad on June 27 after saying it had found compelling evidence that Iraq was involved in the plot.

Verdicts were to have been issued Dec. 25, but the judge decided then that the court needed to question again the security officer who headed the investigation. Court-appointed lawyers

have accused the officer, Abdul Sammad Al Shatti, of failing to produce any evidence against the accused "All of his information is

based on what he believes and what he thinks is possi-ble. Mohammad Al Yassin, lawyer of Mr. Assadi told the

#### New generation shows drab fashions in Paris

PARIS (R) - A new generation of designers kicked off the Paris ready-to-wear shows, veering away from fashion's beaten path and walking headlong into a ditch. Belgian avant-gardist Dries Van Noten. France's Christophe Lemaire and the up-andcoming Mariot Chanet Fashion House packed their venues for shows that stressed innovation rather than elegance. Van Noten, presenting his second women's catwalk show, dressed pubescent, waif-like models in creased or worn fabrics of drab brown, grey and beighthe designer took the deconstructist school of fashion to an extreme: Shabby masculine jackets, long wrap skirts of rumpled crepe and bathrobe coats in the first half of the show were dreary. A pregnant model with greasy blond hair wearing an old blue sweater dress with a chiffon underskirts looked like one of the thousands of homeless stranded on Paris streets this winter. Ratty velvet coats with narrow shoulders were from Oliver Twist's pickpocket days, while sweaters that had been laundered too often matched lingerie-like apron skirts of mauve or dusty rose. Flowered crepe kimonos that might have been pulled from a grandmother's trunk were thrown over tweed jackets and trousers. A scarf of shimmering persimmon or a skirt of burnished raw silk provided welcome splashes of colour. Van Noten, a virtual newcomer to the Paris catwalk, has become spectacularly popular in a matter of months. His collections draw several hundred people, his clothes sell in New York, Paris and Lond

#### Zaire expeis film-maker

KINSHASA (R) — A Belgian

film-maker who once made a damning documentary about Zaire's regime was put on a flight and expelled from the organisation. La Voix Des Sans-Voix (The Voice Of The Voiceless), said Thierry Michel, an independent filmmaker, was taken away for questioning by Zaire's Intelligence Services Thursday. Diplomatic sources in Kinshasa confirmed that Mr. Michel spent a night in detention and was then put aboard an over-night Sabena Belgian airline flight bound for Brussels. No official explanation has been given for his expulsion. But La; Voix Des Sans-Voix said the move appeared to be in retaliation for a highly criticaldocumentary Mr. Michel had made on President Mobutu; Sese Seko's regime. Mr. Michel, who was researching a new documentary on expanates living in Zaire, arrived in Kinshasa 12 days ago and was waiting for his film crew-to arrive. Diplomatic sources said his visa was in order at the time of his expulsion. Shunned by his former Western allies, President Mobutu has recently been showing signs of wanting to improve his image abroad, granting a spate of interviews to foreign journalists. But the Zairean authorities remain sensitive to criticism, particularly when it comes from Belgium, the country's former colonial master.

#### Geldof declared Bankrupt

LONDON (R) — Rock star Bob Geldof, who helped to raise million— or richman, for African famine victimes for been declared bankrupt after failing to pay a £5,00 (57,435) car rental bill, British newspapers reported Saturday. The newspaper said the bankruptcy petition from car rental company Landhurst Leasing was granted by the High Court Thursday. Under British bankruptcy laws, Geldoof now has 21 days to declare all his assets to the official receiver. The Department of Trade and Indus-try confirmed that Geldof had been declared bankrupt but gave no details of the petition. Irishman Geldof, 41, led international relief appeal for famine victims in Ethiopia in the 1980s, organising concerts and charity runs to raise money. The Sun newspape; quoted a spokesman for Gel dof as saying the singer forgo to pay the bill and the matter would be resolved immediate ly. If he settles the debt, the order will be annulled.

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#### Mr. Mihoub previously tion and North African affairs. pronged strategy to tackle the convicts in U.S. blast denounce verdict Families of

AMMAN (Agencies) - The families of two Jordanians convicted in the New York World. Trade Centre bombing Saturday described the verdict as unjust and accused Israel's secret service of framing them to distort the image of Arabs and Muslims.

A jury on Friday convicted Mohammad Salameh, Nidal Ayyad and two others in the Feb. 26, 1993 bombing, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

U.S. District Court Judge Kevin Duffy set sentencing for May 4. The defendants could face life in prison without

Amin Science 1, 51, a retured army lieutenant, maisted that his son Mohammad, 26, the eldest of 11 children, was inno-

Amin, who heard the newsof the guilty verdict through the media hours after it was

issued in New York, said his son spoke with him three days earlier and was confident he would be acquitted.

"He said he would be with us here in a few days," said Amin, who now works for a customs clearing agency. "His lawyer also spoke to me and said the charges against my son were unfounded and unsubstantiated."

"I am shocked by this verdict," he said. "How could a court in America, well known for its sound justice system. find an innocent man guilty of a crime he did not commit?" He accessed israel's secret

សារប្រជាជន ស្នំស្រាស់ការការ cehina ans case if only to distort the image of Islam and Arabs around the world."

"Im sure that my husband is

"Reem had great hopes in

Reem Ayyad, 20, wife of Nidal Ayvad, who is visiting relatives in Jordan, said she fainted when she heard news of the verdict.

"Unfortunately, the American justice was not fair to my husband," she said. "There is a political motive behind this

"The Americans are bowing to Israeli pressures to darken the image of Arabs in general and Muslims in particular. she said. "The Israeli intelligence played a big role in

innocent even if they sentenced him for life," she added.

God that this would not hapren," said Abdullah Gahoun, a section of the Arrad was a \$56,000-a-year. engineer for the Ailied-Signal

"Nidal called us this morning and said he was confident in the jury and was hopeful of being cleared. He even told Reem he would call her from outside the jail later in the In addition to Mr. Salameh.

the two other defendants are Mahmond Abu Halima, and Ahmad Ajaj. Two others. Ramzi Yousef and Abdul Yasin, remain fugitives. The charges against the four

men centred on a key allegation that they conspired to "willfully, knowingly and maliciously destroy buildings in the United States. God wreak revenge on

them because they have done injustice to my son," said Mr. Salameh's mother Aisheh, sobbing hysterically as she stood on the concrete front steps of her shabby home.

"I swear by God my son is innocent, there is nothing to indict him and we know that." said the 45-year-old mother of 13 children, looking pale and drawn behind a white heads-

Mr. Salameh. 26, rented the storage locker where the chemicals used in the explosion were stored. Prosecutors said the chemicals for the bomb

were mixed in his apartment. Neighbours peeped through windows in this working class city of Zarqa. 25 kilometres from Amman which is home to many Palestinian refugees like Mr. Salameh's family who were forced to leave the West Bank after Israel seized it in

Others rushed to the street praising Mr. Salameh as a model of proper behaviour and cursing America and the new U.S.-led world order they perceive as waging war on Islam. The four defendants were

convicted of all 11 counts in an indictment alleging they were part of a conspiracy to construct the bomb in New Jersey and transport it to New York in a rental van.

